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## Weekend floods claim two victims

THE bodies of two of the founders of Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin, whose car was swept away Thursday during flooding from Nahal Harod, were found over the weekend.

Michael Pisahov, 76, was found Friday morning along the river by a police helicopter. Hundreds of people from the Beit She'an Valley kibbutz and the surrounding villages attended his funeral Friday afternoon.

Yisrael Shoham, 73, was found yesterday morning, near the park along the river, not far from Kibbutz Geva. He will be buried at the kibbutz today.

Pisahov, Shoham and Shoham's wife, Zahava, were traveling in their car Thursday evening when Nahal Harod suddenly overflowed its banks. Their car was dragged some three kilometers in a torrent of water and mud, and all three of them were swept out of the vehicle.

Zahava Shoham, 65, survived when she grabbed onto a fence near the border of the Ma'aleh Gilboa Regional Council, and held on until she was found by two members of Kibbutz Ein Harod, who had ventured out to watch the heavy floodwaters. The two pulled her out of the water and called for help.

Flooding in the south resumed yesterday forcing more road closings, after a sunny Friday granted the area a brief respite.

A 13-year-old boy from the Beduin town of Rahat was swept away yesterday into an overflowing wadi but was found unharmed by rescuers.

Rescue units in the south were working last night to rescue tourists stuck at sites throughout the Negev. In Ma'aleh Akrahim, efforts were under way to rescue four families who were trapped. Between Nahal Peres and the Dimona-Sdom road, six jeeps were stuck, and on the Mitzpe Ramon road two trucks were reported trapped. Two German tourists were stuck in the area of the Little Crater.

From late morning until mid-afternoon, heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning resulted in flooding, but by late afternoon police were able to reopen several roads.

But the Masada-Ein Bokek road near the Dead Sea hotels, the Zohar-Ein Gedi road, and the Neveh Zohar-Arad road remained closed all night. The Arava road was also closed from the Arava junction southward, and cars going to Eilat had to travel via Mitzpe Ramon. Egged last night canceled its buses to and from Eilat.

Residents of several Beersheba neighborhoods traveling by car had to travel via a roundabout route when the Avraham Bridge was flooded.

Heavy rain is expected to continue through Tuesday in most parts of the country, and more flooding is expected. (Itim)



Islamic activists in Gaza on Friday protest against last week's car bomb death of an Islamic Jihad leader. Story, Page 2 (AP)

## PM: We won't talk with Hamas

DEPUTY Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said yesterday that Israel would not rule out negotiating with members of Hamas, should members of the extremist group be elected to the Palestinian self-rule council.

Last night, however, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected that option. "We will talk to [Hamas]," Gur told Israel Radio. "Years ago we said we would not negotiate with the PLO until it recognizes Israel, refrains from terror and so on. In the end...they recognized Israel and made a commitment regarding terror."

He made it clear, however, that Israel would not accept having the self-rule council turn into a legislative body, and that this is one of the main stumbling blocks in the talks with Palestinians regarding elections.

Rabin said, however, talks with Hamas were out of the question as long as it engages in terrorism.

Speaking at a Jerusalem news conference, Rabin said, "Hamas are enemies of peace and murderers of Israelis."

"As long as that is their policy, the main test for us will be to avoid letting them kill peace," said Rabin.

"If a miracle happens and they will say that they will stop terrorism and will accept the existence of the state of Israel - when this miracle will happen, then you can ask me again," he said.

JOSE ROSENFELD and news agencies

Contrasting current talks with the PLO to Hamas, Rabin noted Israel has been more forthcoming with the PLO since they decided to settle their differences by means of negotiations.

Likud MK Michael Eitan said Gur's remarks were an acknowledgment of the failure of Rabin's policies and another capitulation to terror.

Rabin had promised that Israel and the PLO would battle Hamas together, but instead both are giving in to Hamas, and both the PLO and Hamas are committing terror acts against Israel. MK Rehavam Ze'evi, the head of the Molechet faction, reacted similarly.

But criticism of Gur came from the left, as well. MK Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) said he would demand a meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, of which he is a member, to discuss Gur's remarks.

"The whole world is united against Islamic extremism, and among us there are those willing to grant legitimacy to Hamas," Cohen said, adding that Gur's remarks contradicted a commitment by Rabin not to talk to Hamas.

"[Gur's] remarks give a propaganda advantage to the Hamas organization, which we should be fighting to the death on the military, political, and information fronts," Cohen said.

On Friday, Rabin has again called on the Palestinian Authority to make a "more significant effort" to curb terrorists from its domain

who launch attacks on Israel.

"If the Palestinian Authority cannot control its population and prevent terrorist outrages, then how can it claim to represent this same population in its dealings with us?" Rabin asked, at the Labor political bureau meeting in Tel Aviv.

Rabin said that radical Islamic fundamentalism and poor living standards could jeopardize peace agreements with Arab nations.

"Without treating the two main enemies: radical, terrorist fundamentalism, poverty and ignorance, there won't be stability in the Middle East," Rabin said.

Rabin's meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, scheduled for tomorrow at the Erez checkpoint, has been postponed until Tuesday due to technical reasons.

"It will be a very important meeting because it is time that the interim agreement be discussed in a comprehensive manner," said Saeb Erekat, the authority's official in charge of local government.

"That includes redeployment [of IDF troops] in the West Bank, elections and extension of Palestinian authority to the West Bank," he said.

Rabin reiterated last night that Israel is committed to fully implement the agreements with the Palestinians and said he will meet with Arafat to "solve problems still ahead of us." Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

## Free-trade pact with Turkey near

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL and Turkey are close to signing a free-trade agreement, Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller announced last night.

At a news conference preceding the opening of the third annual Jerusalem Business Conference, Ciller said the countries would be ready to sign a free-trade accord by the end of the month, or, at the latest, by the end of the year.

On Friday, Israel and the Czech Republic also agreed to sign a free-trade accord, probably by mid-January. It will be the first such agreement Israel will have with an eastern European country.

At the press conference, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin thanked Ciller "for taking a step no other Turkish prime minister ever dared to make, to visit Israel." Her presence symbolized how things are changing in the Middle East, he said.

Ciller said Turkey has a lot to contribute to the peace process and that it was not enough to talk about it, but follow words with concrete agreements.

Rabin said the countries had concluded cooperation agreements against crime, drug smuggling and terrorism. An aide close to Rabin said that an agreement to upgrade Turkish fighter planes is being held up due to financing problems.

Ciller spoke of creating a regional common market and the possibility of pursuing joint telecommunication and water projects, including the building of a water pipeline.

She added that the countries are negotiating an agreement to allow

investment in each other's capital markets, which, she said, are becoming very attractive due to the privatization process both countries are undergoing.

Asked about the rights of 15 million Kurds in Turkey, Ciller said "We do not have ethnic minorities in Turkey; everyone is a first-rank citizen."

Referring to the PKK, the Kurdish guerrilla group, she said "no one will allow for my country to be divided up." Ciller called the PKK a terrorist group, which attacks civilians indiscriminately.

In the meeting Friday between Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Czech Foreign Minister Alexander Vandra, the two sides agreed to sign an accord that would at first cover the exchange of goods and services, but at a later stage would also permit the free movement of capital between the two states.

It was also agreed to eventually eliminate the need for travelers between the two countries to obtain visas.

The three-day Jerusalem Business Conference, taking place at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, is hosting 2,500 local businessmen and about 1,000 business leaders from the Middle East, the US, Europe and Africa. International companies such as Amoco, Bechtel, Daewoo, Martin Marietta, Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers, Sprint, AT&T and Bell South, will be represented.

A computerized multimedia center provides participants with updated information on approximately 12,000 local companies. In addition, major Israeli companies are displaying their latest innovations.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller attend last night's opening of the third annual Jerusalem Business Conference. (AP)

## Kupat Holim unions will ask workers to authorize strike

JUDY SIEGEL

FIFTY Kupat Holim Clalit works committees will be asked tomorrow to authorize a general strike by 26,000 of its 32,000 workers, beginning Wednesday. The unions are protesting against management's failure to pay October wages, which are due to be deposited in the banks on the fifth of every month.

The works committees represent all clinic and hospital staffers except for the 6,000 health fund doctors.

Dr. Miriam Tzangen, chairman of the doctors' union, said she and her colleagues would hold an emergency meeting in mid-week to decide what to do. "I hope the government will change its mind and transfer to management the necessary funds to cover salaries. If not, there will be no choice but to strike," she said.

Tzangen added that the doctors are eagerly awaiting the beginning of national health insurance in January, because health taxes will automatically be collected by the National Insurance Institute, which will then distribute the funds among the various health funds. "Then the money will arrive on a regular basis, without delays."

Moshe Zelinger, acting head of the union representing Clalit workers excluding doctors, said last night that they insist non-payment of salaries be regarded as completely separate from the Treasury's demands that workers agree to Clalit's tough recovery program.

According to the recovery plan approved by the cabinet two weeks ago, the government would grant the financially troubled health fund NIS 3 billion in state aid over the next few years. But 1,000 employees would have to be dismissed, working hours lengthened and salaries reduced. The treasury insists it won't transfer a penny for salaries to Clalit management unless staffers agree to all terms of the recovery plan.

The union is willing only to lend management NIS 120 million over a two-year period that would be returned to them, linked, in 10 years. If the government does not agree, the workers say they would even prefer that the health fund be put into receivership.

A Clalit source said he hoped the Finance Ministry would somehow change its mind and transfer the necessary funds so the strike will not be carried out. If it is, hospitals will treat only emergencies cases and community clinics will be paralyzed. If the physicians join a strike, the clinics would shut down completely.

## No buyers for 'Davar,' says Ramon

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman Haim Ramon called Davar's representatives to his office Friday for what one participant described later as "a terse and extremely hostile meeting," at which Ramon said there are no potential buyers for the Histadrut-owned newspaper.

Ramon agreed to offer Davar employees the same retirement terms as workers being fired from the Histadrut apparatus will receive. But Davar's representatives said yesterday they would prefer to maintain the severance and pension terms guaranteed by their collective work agreements.

Ramon at first refused to begin the meeting due to the presence of National Federation of Israel Journalists Chairperson Sara Friedman. But when the workers'

representatives all rose to leave unless Friedman remained, Ramon gave in and started the meeting.

"[Ramon], who cannot hold any meeting without shouting and threats, immediately started bullying us, accused the Journalists' Federation and Davar's journalists of conducting a political vendetta against him and threatened to get back at us for the press conference we held last week," a Davar workers committee member said.

Infuriated by a comment made by Davar union head Efraim Davidi, Ramon threatened to reduce the workers' severance payment.

"You, Davidi, will be responsible for your colleagues' not getting

their full severance fees," Ramon was quoted as saying. Davar's workers commented later that keeping wage agreements should not depend on momentary anger or hostility, and breaking them should not be a result of revenge on a worker.

Despite the meeting, Davar's Action Committee chairman Shaul Rehavi reported yesterday that negotiations to purchase the paper by a group of more than 40 journalists were continuing, and that he was optimistic about their chances of success.

But according to Histadrut and Davar sources, Davar's closure at the end of the year is inevitable. They said yesterday that Ramon has made it clear he will cut all funds to the newspaper on January 1.

## Israel, Arab states head list of countries at arms proliferation conference in Jordan

AMMAN (AP) - Political and military experts from 20 countries, including Israel and Arab states, will meet in Jordan next week to discuss efforts to curb arms proliferation in the Middle East, an official said Friday.

Jordan's delegation to the conference, opening Tuesday at the Dead Sea, will be headed by Abdullah Touqan, an official who took part in negotiations that led to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Touqan said Friday that the conference will probe ways of cooperation between Arab and Israeli armies and "confidence-building measures among regional countries" in addition to arms control.

The three-day conference would produce recommendations to be presented to a larger party scheduled to meet in Tunisia next month.

Arms control is one of several multilateral workshops launched as part of the peace process three years ago. They include ones on refugees, environment, water and economy.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Touqan said that at this week's meeting Jordan will seek information on "Israel's nuclear capabilities."

"We hope that Israel, which has repeatedly denied it's possession of nuclear arms, will acknowledge that at the meeting," he said.

Touqan said the conferees also will discuss the "exchange of military information, especially with regard to the nature of weapons each army possesses."

He said participants will "discuss cooperation between naval and ground forces among regional countries and other aspects related to regional security."

Touqan said next week's meeting will be attended by experts from Jordan, Israel, Yemen, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, the Palestinians, Turkey, the United States, Russia, Canada and Australia.

## Mother: I killed 'carjack' boys

UNION, South Carolina (AP) - Scores of flower arrangements adorned with teddy bears, Bible references and tender messages to the "precious little ones" deluged a funeral home yesterday as mourners from across the country said good-bye to two little boys allegedly drowned by their mother.

Police say Susan Smith sent her car plunging into a murky lake with 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex strapped into their safety seats. She concocted a story of a carjack-kidnapping, but confessed after nine days of tearful on-camera pleas for the boys' safe return, police say.

Full story, Page 4



# Thousands take to streets in Gaza protest

THOUSANDS of Islamic activists took to the streets in Gaza on Friday to protest the death of an Islamic Jihad leader in a car bomb blast on Wednesday, although leaders demanded calm a day after street anarchy embarrassed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Hamas issued a leaflet in the Palestine Mosque saying that it would target suspected Israeli informants to revenge the death of Hani Abed.

"The burning and angry populace will take the responsibility in settling the accounts with the collaborators and teach them a cruel lesson," the leaflet said.

The leaflet also threatened more attacks against Israelis. It called for "every means of holy war at the proper time and suitable place."

The Islamic extremist organization blames Israel for booby-trapping the car that killed Abed.

On Thursday, young activists forced Arafat to leave Abed's funeral,

pulled off his keffiyeh and chanted slogans against him. In the Palestinian leader's first public statements after the incident, he played down the wild scene, in an attempt to prevent violence.

"The wind never moves the mountain. Don't let anything harm our unity," said Arafat, in a speech to supporters based in from the southern city of Rafiah. "The important thing in this difficult moment we face is our national unity," he said.

But his opponents are still simmer-

## News Agencies

ing over Abed's death and blame Arafat for appearing so powerless in the face of Israeli pressure to crack down on Islamic groups.

"He took power from the people, but it was not given to him," said Iyad Masri, 24, a marcher from the Jabalya refugee camp.

"He will leave [office] because no one will support him. Either he will cry tears of blood, or he will commit

suicide," the activist warned.

Still, Islamic leaders appeared chastened by the fury they helped unleash on the streets Thursday and on Friday appealed for calm. In the past, Arafat has tossed them in jail following attacks on Israelis, but never held them long.

Immediately after Arafat was evicted from the mosque, a delegation apologized to the Palestinian leader, blaming the incident on hot-heads not directly connected to Islamic movements.

"What happened [Thursday] was a very bad mistake," Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar told the crowd of thousands gathered outside Abed's home after Friday prayers. "We must remain united," he said.

But despite their calls for unity, Hamas leaders still blamed the Palestinian National Authority in part for Abed's death, because of its lack of protection for the Islamic factions.

Abed was a suspect in the May 20

shooting death of two Israeli soldiers near the Erez checkpoint. Palestinians blame Israel for his death, but Israeli sources said he had ordered a car bomb constructed to explode inside Israel and press reports said a stolen car had already been readied.

"The time has come for the Palestinian security forces to confront informants instead of hounding the holy fighters," said a Hamas leaflet. Hamas warned that if the authority did not act, Islamic groups would revenge Abed's death.

"The Palestinian Authority faces a very important test of taking responsibility to find the killers," the leaflet said.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested seven members of Izzadin Kassam, the military wing of Hamas, and will hold them in administrative detention for at least six months, sources said on Friday.

All seven men live in Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah.

## Palestinian Independence Day to be November 15

The Palestinian Authority decided yesterday to mark November 15 every year as Palestinian Independence Day, a Palestinian official said.

Schools and government offices will be closed that day, said the official, speaking on condition of

anonymity.

The date was apparently chosen because on November 15, 1988, the Palestine National Council declared the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. The unilateral declaration did not cite any borders.

## Jordanian parliament debates treaty

AMMAN (AP) — Parliament opened a debate yesterday on the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, with clear battle lines in the legislature drawn between supporters and opponents of the historic pact.

A vote is not expected until today or tomorrow, when the October 26 treaty is likely to pass with at least 55 of the 80 votes of the lower house Chamber of Deputies, which is dominated by pro-establishment politicians.

Of the 78 lawmakers present yesterday, 53 were scheduled to speak. The session adjourned until today after the house heard speeches by 25 lawmakers, including six who criticized the treaty.

The formal debate started after parliament's 23-member Foreign Affairs Committee, which reviewed the treaty, recommended that it be ratified. The committee moved after voting down the objections of three of its members representing the fundamentalist Islamic Action Front, which vehemently opposes peace with Israel and advocates its elimination.

Hanzel Mansour, a spokesman for the 16-strong bloc in parliament, told the chamber: "This treaty opens the door for economic cooperation with Israel and achieving the Zionist's aims of ending the Arab boycott," imposed nearly five decades ago when Israel was created. "The treaty ignores the issue of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons" in the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars, he declared.

But Ibrahim Samara, a bedouin from central Jordan who spoke on behalf of the seven former officers, praised King Hussein and pledged whole-hearted support for the treaty. King Hussein "is a hero in war as he is a hero in peace," he said.

The treaty, he added, "restores our rights and gives us hope for a bright future and protects Jordan and the [Arab] nation."

Outside the domed parliament building in the heart of Amman, riot police sealed off all access roads and scores of police patrols cruised the streets on the lookout for anti-treaty demonstrations the opposition has vowed to hold.

Muslim fundamentalists have intensified their denunciations of the treaty in recent days and the king has warned that his patience was running thin.

In parliament, the fundamentalists are supported by a handful of leftists and pan-Arab nationalists who oppose the three-year-old US-sponsored peace process, saying it is biased in favor of Israel.



Local residents inspect the new signs that were erected outside the Machpela Cave, which will reopen tomorrow amid increased security, and with new procedures governing prayer times and entrance regulations for Jews and Moslems. Security forces are on heightened alert following indications that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad may be planning an attack tomorrow to avenge the death of Hani Abed. (Photo: Khaled Zighari; Text: Alon Pinkas)

## Northern crossing point opens this week

DAVID RUDGE

THE northern crossing point between Israel and Jordan, opposite Kibbutz Ma'oz Haim, is to officially open this week following the completion of work on the new bridge and access routes on both sides of the border.

The Sheikh Hussein Bridge, to be known on this side of the border as the Jordan River Bridge, is to be inaugurated by Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar and his Jordanian counterpart on Thursday.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is scheduled to hold a working meeting with King Hussein at the site.

Belt She'an Valley regional council chairman Yigal Shabar, who was informed of the details for the planned opening ceremony, said the event would be less formal and more public-spirited than last week's peace signing ceremony.

Shabar said it would be a historic day for all residents in the region, marking what everybody hopes will be a new era of peace and prosperity.

## Two die on roads

TWO people were killed and a seven-year-old boy suffered serious injuries in road accidents over the weekend. Nurit Guta, 26, from Moshav Ein Sarid, suffered fatal injuries on Thursday night when her car overturned at Bnei Dror junction. An MDA team treated the woman, who died before reaching the hospital.

On Friday morning, Esther Ya'ar-Bar, 34, was killed on the Nahariya-Ma'alot road when another car veered out of its lane and crashed into her head-on. Police have arrested the driver.

In Bat Yam, seven-year-old Alexander Federinko was hit by car on Friday night. He was brought to Holon's Wolfson Hospital in serious condition.

In a crackdown Friday night in the Tel Aviv area, police suspended the licenses of 26 drivers who seriously violated various traffic laws. Another 103 drivers received tickets, 69 of them for speeding.

## Arms theft suspects freed

TWO suspects arrested on suspicion of selling IDF weapons to Arabs were released from custody on Friday. Some of the weapons sold in the deal were used by the Hamas cell which murdered Sgt. Nahshon Waxman.

Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Sara Frish rejected a police request to extend the remand of Moshe Ben-El, 22, of Ashdod, for another eight days. Police decided on Thursday night not to extend the remand of Yisrael Peretz.

Ohad ruled that there was not enough evidence against Ben-El, who was arrested because of the testimony given by another suspect, Yoram Livraty. Ben-El passed a polygraph test and had an alibi.

Friends and family who attended Friday's hearing broke out into cheers when the judge released him. Ben-El said Livraty was an acquaintance who apparently tried to frame him.

Peretz, a clothing store owner, claimed that he had been abroad on a business trip the day the IDF base was robbed. He said he was arrested because his car had been given by his son to an Arab from Gaza for repair.

Livraty and Charlie Azrazar, also Ashdod residents, are still in custody. Police say the suspects were involved in the theft of 20 Galil assault rifles from the Tze'elim base on July 31. Police believe Peretz allowed the other suspects to use his car in the theft of the rifles and their transfer to Gaza.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Two border policemen injured

Three border policemen were lightly injured on Friday evening when they were attacked with rocks near the Machpela Cave. The incident began with an exchange of insults between a few Arab residents and the policeman. A large crowd of residents then gathered and began throwing rocks at the policeman.

The crowd was dispersed and two residents were arrested. The injured policemen were treated by army medics.

### Cabinet considers budget supplement

The cabinet today will consider the Treasury's proposed NIS 5.6-billion supplemental budget for 1994. The additional budget is to cover higher public sector wages as a result of the government's generous salary hikes, rescue packages for Kupat Holim Clalit, the defense industry and local authorities, and the redeployment costs of the peace agreement with the Palestinians.

### Shalom: Ministry should probe IDF cases

Likud MK Silvan Shalom has submitted a bill which would require all IDF internal investigations to be conducted by the special Justice Ministry division that investigates misconduct in the police and General Security Service.

Shalom suggests that the division be expanded to include army investigations.

He said that in recent cases the IDF has not taken sufficient measures against those responsible for accidents and mishaps. That, he said, keeps IDF alertness low, since soldiers know they won't be punished.

### Hadash threatens to stop supporting gov't

The Hadash party will stop supporting the government in the Knesset if the policy of moving collaborators from the territories into Arab towns and cities is not stopped, Hadash MK Hashem Mahameed said yesterday.

Mahameed was speaking at a demonstration in Nazareth called to protest the practice. Nazareth Mayor Ramaz Jarisi, who also participated in the demonstration, said residents would not hesitate to set up "militias" to stop the "shameful behavior" of the collaborators.

### Goldstein gravesite demolition rescinded

The demolition order issued last week against a plaza being built around the grave of Baruch Goldstein in Kiryat Arba was changed Friday to an order to stop construction.

Although a tombstone has not yet been erected on the grave, local leaders expressed satisfaction at the change.

## Buffeting of Arafat seen as result of economic frustration

WASHINGTON (AP) — The US State Department said Friday that economic frustration among Palestinians in Gaza was behind the rough treatment accorded PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat when he tried to attend a funeral for a militant Islamic leader.

Gazans knocked off Arafat's head Thursday, called him a traitor and threw him out of the mosque funeral. It was his worst political embarrassment since his endorsement by Israel last year as head of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The State Department took the incident in stride Friday. Spokesman Michael McCurry said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "has a very difficult and contentious political environment to deal with, as well."

President Clinton's administration and Rabin's government are depending on Arafat and his police to maintain order in Gaza and, ultimately, throughout the West Bank, which also will be given to him to administer.

"We continue to work with them to make sure they carry out the functions that they have been given," spokesman McCurry said. "Chairman Arafat has a very difficult and delicate political position, but then so does every other leader in the region."

The administration has raised pledges of \$2.5 billion in assistance to the PLO. At a regional economic summit meeting last week in Casablanca, Rabin appealed for help for Arafat and his organization. The assistance is slow in coming because of the violence and the PLO's lack of expertise in taking administrative control.

McCurry, speaking for the State Department, saw the attack on Arafat as a reflection of the people's frustrations with a hard life and a slow pace of reform — and not as rejection of the agreement with Israel.

"People now want to see that there are dividends," the spokesman said, "that there are rewards for having taken these risks to make peace, and there is inevitably frustration when they don't see that type of improvement in quality of life."

## Israel, Lebanon could hold direct talks, Gur says

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

### Peres denies Syrian meeting

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres denied reports that he would meet with his Syrian counterpart within the next month.

"The Syrians are still refusing to agree to a meeting between [Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin and [Syrian President Hafez] Assad or between me and the Syrian foreign minister," Peres said yesterday in an interview with Army Radio. "There are no signs of a change in this position," Peres added.

ISRAEL does not preclude holding direct talks with Lebanon on a phased pullout of Israeli forces from the south of that country, in exchange for a total cessation of violence, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said yesterday.

Speaking on Channel 2, Gur said that if Lebanon submits a plan that would ensure security in the south and curb Hizbullah's activities, then talks could be held. "If such a plan is presented, I would recommend that the government consider it," Gur said.

Gur's remarks came as the presidents of Syria and Lebanon met in Damascus yesterday to discuss what they call Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Presidents Hafez Assad and Elias Hrawi discussed the Israeli-Syrian peace track, as well as Lebanon's stalled talks with Israel, and resolved to continue closely coordinating progress on the two tracks.

Assad also briefed Hrawi on the outcome of his summit meeting with President Clinton in the Syrian capital last week, a palace spokesman said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month publicly presented a three-phased plan to withdraw from the security zone over a nine-month period, in exchange for integrating the South Lebanese Army into the Lebanese army, disarming Hizbullah and guaranteeing security in the south.

Though there have been some positive rumblings from Beirut, Lebanon has not officially reacted to the plan.

A senior Israeli official involved with the Israel-Lebanon talks reiterated Israel's position that any accommodation in Lebanon is contingent upon an agreement with Syria, but he did not dismiss the possibility of talks.

"Syria calls the shots in Lebanon and has prevented the Lebanese army from deploying in the south, as mandated in the Taif agreement, as well as deliberately refrained from disarming Hizbullah," the official said. "Nevertheless, it is not unlikely

that Syria will give its blessings to concrete talks between Israel and Lebanon in an attempt to reignite Syrian-Israeli talks through an indirect — via Lebanon — approach," he said.

Rabin has said, however, there will be no pullback just to hold peace talks, and he questioned the Lebanese army's ability to rein in Hizbullah terrorists.

Syria's Al-Thawra daily said yesterday that Rabin's position means that he is "determined to separate south Lebanon from the rest of the land ... to swallow it and continue to ignore the principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region as a whole."

The state-run newspaper said in an editorial that Rabin's position was part of an Israeli campaign "to black out" Clinton's efforts to give momentum to the Middle East peace process during his recent tour.

"Clinton has found a more positive atmosphere to achieve progress on the Syrian track and has found a great Syrian credibility in dealing with the peace process," the daily said.

Another government daily, *Haaretz*, said Rabin's reluctance to recognize Resolution 425 reflected an Israeli obstinacy in dealing with the peace process.

The newspaper noted that the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa has encouraged Rabin to show more "obstinacy" in his position toward peace efforts.

SLA man killed in Lebanon, Page 12

## Martha Meisels

Marketing Expert of The Jerusalem Post speaks on

## CONSUMER HEADACHES- WHAT TO DO

Monday, November 7 at 4 p.m.

AACI Petah Tikva Group, Young Israel, Rehov Kadish Luz, Petah Tikva Refreshments. Admission NIS 5.

## THE KNESSET IN ENGLISH

with

Yael Dayan MK (Labour)  
Tzahi Hanegbi MK (Likud)  
Ron Nachman MK (Likud)  
Benny Temkin MK (Meretz)

Moderator: Yehuda Levy, Publisher, The Jerusalem Post

Monday, November 21, 8 p.m.

Laromme Hotel, Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem

With deep regret we announce the passing of our dear

## ILSE ENGEL

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, Kisle 3, 5755, at 1 p.m. at the Sde Yehoshua (Kfar Samir) funeral home at gate No. 3.

The Family

With deep pain we announce the passing of

## RUTH HAMBURGER

(née Thau)

The funeral will be held today, Sunday, Kisle 3, 5755, at 1:30 p.m. at the old cemetery in Haifa. A bus will leave from the deceased's home, 9 Mapo Street, Haifa.

bereaved: Her son and her daughter in law, Eytan and Irit  
Her daughter Ronith  
Her sister Selma Michels  
Her grandsons Alon and Rotem

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## Egyptian families bury victims of disaster

DOMINIC EVANS  
DROINKA

WHEN Mohammed Mahmoud Mustafa went to the morgue to identify 10 relatives burned to death in the fire that engulfed this southern Egyptian town, he could barely recognize the charred bodies of his family.

"I saw my brother. I could tell it was his face. The others we just guessed from their size and bits of clothes," he said.

"We buried them all last night in the family grave," he added, clutching the 10 hospital permits that allowed the bodies of his brother, four nephews and their children to be released for burial.

Three days after burning fuel swept through Dronka on a deluge of floodwater, officials say most of the nearly 500 victims have been buried. Many were claimed by relatives. Others were buried in a communal grave.

But rescue workers yesterday morning pulled seven bodies from charred and waterlogged homes while people waited gloomily for news of relatives still missing.

People picked through the wreckage of their houses, unearthing sacks of grain, plates, and broken furniture.

In the fields outside Dronka, where many bodies were swept along by the floods, corpses were still turning up.

Mahrousa Thabit Mahmoud, taking shelter in the primary school that has been her home since her house was swamped in a sea of mud nearly two meters (yards) high, said she had given up hope for her two young grandsons, Mohammed and Mahmoud.

"No one has seen them since the disaster," she said. "Maybe they were carried away in the flood."

In the only bright note, residents, assembled yesterday that a seven-month-old boy had been found alive on Wednesday by a passerby. The boy was reunited with his grandmother but his parents, brothers and sisters did not survive.

At Assiut's main University Hospital, all but 14 of the 220 bodies have been claimed. Those still remaining lie decomposing in the stinking corridors of the hospital morgue.

Officials doubted if people knew whether they were really burying their own dead or the charred remains of neighbors.

"They were so badly burned no one could tell who they were. People just came to claim a body. I don't know if they found the right ones," said hospital manager Mohammed Ibrahim Taha.

In Dronka, where survivors say they have been left to the mercy of charitable relatives and friends, Mustafa echoed growing bitterness over inaction by a government that many hold partly responsible for the disaster.

"No one is thinking of doing anything for us. (Prime Minister Atef) Sedki came here and said a couple of words and left. They say they are giving compensation but there is nothing," he said as he rescued a last waterlogged sack of grain from his burnt-out house.

"There's a hundred homeless families staying with relatives. What's the government going to do?" he said.

He was standing in the area worst hit by the inferno, a dried-up riverbed flanked on both sides by cemeteries about a kilometer from the huge fuel tanks that burst into flames during Wednesday's heavy storm.

The fire swept down the riverbed, engulfing houses, a mosque and a large grain factory and leaving a black scar running through the town before pouring into the nearby fields. (Reuters)



Cyclists stand near a painting of former East German leader Erich Honecker (right) and the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev exchanging a kiss on the largest surviving section of the Berlin Wall.

## Berlin five years after the Wall

LARRY THORSON  
BERLIN

THEY danced together on the Berlin Wall the night it opened five years ago. Yet the people of east and west Germany have pulled back from that embrace and are warily testing each other.

The Wall itself is gone. Checkpoint Charlie, once the symbol of Cold War tensions, is being replaced by the American Business Center. Potsdamer Platz, the square that was no man's land for decades, is being dug up for a retail, office and residential complex and may eventually recapture its prewar fame as the busiest intersection in Europe.

But while construction cranes, bridge builders and tunnel diggers are binding Berlin back together and transforming all of former communist East Germany, politics and old divisions are holding east and west Germans apart.

Some eastern Germans have extraordinarily mixed feelings about the last five years.

The euphoria of freedom still brings tears to Catherine Erdmann. She and her husband, Helmut, 36, joined the throng that poured through Checkpoint Charlie on Nov. 9, 1989.

"That was really a fantastic time," said Mrs. Erdmann, 38. "You forget so much with time. So much is natural, as if it had always been so. But that night really shook the world."

The Erdmanns had been psychologically

ready to go west. They had braved secret police harassment and applied to leave East Germany in 1986.

Now they feel like second-class citizens in united Germany. "On the social welfare side, the east was better. There's no question about that," said Erdmann, who spent months unemployed before he found a job at a cleaning business in the west.

Germany has changed into one country in many aspects since the Wall opened. Yet old divisions haunt the country, divisions that gave the reformed East German communists big gains in the Oct. 16 national elections, divisions that will make politics tricky for Chancellor Helmut Kohl in his fourth term.

Some have cheerfully overcome the divide. Ulrich Bachmann was computer director for East Germany's sports federation for 20 years and says his life then was "not so bad."

Now he has his own computer services company with 12 employees and annual revenue of about 6.5 million marks (\$4.3 million). Life is much more hectic and risky but the potential is great.

"I certainly don't regret anything," Bachmann said. "I would never have had the opportunity to found this company."

On the other side, in the recent election 2,067,391 people voted for the former communists — nearly 20 percent of the eastern German electorate. Among them is Reinhard Hummeltenberg, a 24-year-old chemistry student.

"The socialist utopia hasn't been knocked down just because East Germany collapsed, even though this utopia went astray," Hummeltenberg said.

But many other Germans recall a police state that killed those who tried to flee and compiled millions of secret files on those who stayed.

Germany's two peoples lived very different lives during 40 years of division, and their outlooks are often at odds.

"We have different biographies," said Harald Ringstorf, head of the liberal Social Democrats in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Brandenburg governor Manfred Stolpe, also a Social Democrat, bucked western party bosses in consulting former communists in his eastern state.

"We can't simply exclude 2 million voters," Stolpe said. (AP)

## Berlusconi warns off his ally Fini

ROME (Reuters) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi yesterday told his hard-right ally Gianfranco Fini to forget any dreams he might have of replacing him as premier.

He warned the leader of the fascist-tinted National Alliance (AN) he would defend his job "tooth and nail."

In an interview with *La Repubblica* newspaper, Berlusconi told Fini, the slick and articulate head of a movement seeking to bury its blackshirts past, not to entertain dreams of forming a far-right government.

"I will defend... my program, my ideas and my people tooth and nail," said Berlusconi who swept to power in March general elections just two months after entering politics.

"We are an army of moderates and political reformers and our tradition must rest solidly democratic. We are allied with a right-wing par-

ty led by a very intelligent man — but we are not a part of the right."

The media magnate warned Fini, whom polls show has overtaken Berlusconi in the popularity stakes and whose party is fast gaining ground, not to invade his space.

Berlusconi made his comments days after an opinion poll showed Forza Italia, the free-market party he formed at the start of the year, waning and AN gaining ground.

The poll, conducted by the Swg institute for *La Repubblica* and published on Tuesday, showed support for Forza Italia had dropped to 23 percent from European elections in June when its approval rating was 30.6%.

Over the same period AN saw its projected vote share jump from 12.5% to 17.5%.

Last weekend Fini said he would not be opposed to early elections.

"I don't want early elections,

but I'm certainly not afraid of them and... we wouldn't stand in the way of them because support for us is growing."

The clean-cut Fini, 42, is considered the rising star of Italian politics.

He has led the Italian Social Movement (MSI), AN's core party founded by the heirs of wartime dictator Benito Mussolini, out of the political wilderness where it languished for five decades and into government after elections last March.

Fini has since been piloting the party into the space left by the collapse of the long-dominant Christian Democrats, disgraced by Italy's corruption scandals.

He is working hard to distance AN from its neo-fascist roots. Last month he confirmed plans to wind up the MSI at a final party congress next January. The party will be merged with the broader AN.

## Iran denies link to murder of former PM

NICOSIA (Reuters) — Iran yesterday denied that two men accused of killing former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar were related to President Hashemi Akbar Rafsanjani or late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said a Foreign Ministry spokesman "categorically denied" that Zeynal Rad and Massoud Hendi were related to the senior officials.

Hendi and Sarhadi as well as Ali Vakili Rad went on trial in France this week for the murder of Bakhtiar in 1991.

In court, Hendi denied reports that he was a nephew of Rafsanjani. Media reports have said Sarhadi was a great nephew of Rafsanjani.

Six other Iranians are being tried in absentia and prosecutors reckon Iran's Islamic government is behind the killings. Tehran has denied all involvement.

Bakhtiar fled to France and was condemned to death by an Islamic judge after the 1979 revolution.

## Bosnian Serbs prepare for 'final battle'

News agencies  
SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN army commanders vowed yesterday to press on with their biggest, most successful attack in 2½ years of war despite Serb claims they blunted it and were gearing for a showdown.

Bosnian Serb military and political leaders, meeting in their stronghold of Pale east of Sarajevo on Friday, announced a general callup, suspended university classes, set up student brigades, canceled all leaves and toughened penalties against deserters.

"We are headed for the final battle," declared Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The Serb and Moslem forces battled for the northwestern town of Bosanska Krupa yesterday and UN peacekeepers said the government troops were preparing to expand their successful offensive in central Bosnia.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said Bosanska Krupa, on the edge of the Moslem-held Bihac pocket was being fiercely defended by units of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

"The BSA is putting up a stiff fight," said UN spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon. "We think there must be a lot of casualties and the town will not be easy for the Bosnian government army to capture."

Peacekeepers believed the BSA still held the eastern bank of the Una river around Bosanska Krupa whose civilian population has been evacuated to safety.

Moslem troops have been trying to capture the town since launching an autumn offensive 10 days ago that has rocked the BSA by driving Serb forces onto the retreat in northwest and central Bosnia and southwest of Sarajevo.

Serbs have had a heavy advantage in firepower throughout the war, which began in April 1992, and used that to take control of 70 percent of Bosnia.

In recent weeks, however, better-motivated and more numerous troops of the Moslem-led army have taken up to 400 sq km of territory.

The Bosnian Serbs also are likely suffering from fuel shortages since their former patron in Yugoslavia, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, closed the border to pressure them into accepting an international peace plan.

Karadzic has refused, and despite Milosevic's pressure, efforts to negotiate an end to the war have taken a back seat to battle-

field developments.

Top UN officials, including the chief for former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, and the military commander for Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, were to meet later yesterday in Zagreb, Croatia, with representatives of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany to review the diplomatic effort in the new circumstances.

Kupres, in central Bosnia that the Serbs held since the beginning of the war and referred to as the "gates of Bosnia," fell to the Bosnian army and an allied Bosnian Croat militia on Thursday.

The Tanjug news agency of Serb-led Yugoslavia quoted Bosnian Serb military sources as saying that they had established new defense lines, halted the offensive and had control over the territory northwest of Kupres.

The commander of the Bosnian army 7th Corps, Gen. Mehmet Alagic, whose troops fought for Kupres, told Sarajevo's main *Oslobodjenje* daily that the attack would continue.

"We will not stop at what we have achieved... we have the strength and the possibility to continue," Alagic said in an interview published yesterday. "We are going to liberate further territories."

In Sarajevo, UN spokesman Maj. Herve Gourmelon said that the next target of the government's attack could be the Serb-held town of Donji Vakuf.

That town lies just north of Bugojno, Alagic's headquarters, along a main road leading into the heart of Serb-held territory in western Bosnia.

The eventual goal of Alagic's forces appears to be to link up with the 5th Corps, which opened the government's broad offensive by breaking Serb lines and hemming them into a corner of northwest Bosnia. It drove south and east, and now is at the gates of Bosanska Krupa, an advance of about 30 km.

Gourmelon said, fighting also could flare up just north of Sarajevo where UN observers have noted a buildup of government forces. That was the scene of heavy fighting, and some government gains, late this summer.

On another battlefield south of Sarajevo, Tanjug quoted Bosnian Serb military sources as saying they had retaken territory seized in recent days by government forces. (Reuters)

## Exiled Bangladeshi writer charged with blasphemy

DHAKA (AP) — A court yesterday charged exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin with blaspheming Islam and ordered her trial next month.

If convicted, she could be sentenced up to two years in prison. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate A.K.M. Kamaluddin did not say whether the feminist author would be brought back from Sweden, her home in exile.

The judge accepted government attorney Abdur Razzaque's plea that Nasrin, 32, insulted Islam by calling for a revision of the Koran, the Islamic holy book.

He rejected her lawyer Sarah Hossain's argument that the case could not be pursued since the charge was brought on the basis of a newspaper interview in which she was misquoted. Her trial will start on Dec. 10.

Nasrin became the target of Islamic fundamentalists after an Indian newspaper quoted her as saying she wants a thorough review of the Koran. She denied that, but said she favored changes in the Islamic laws to give more rights to women.

On June 4, Nasrin went into hiding after a court ordered her arrest following accusation by the government that her remarks hurt the sentiments of Moslems.

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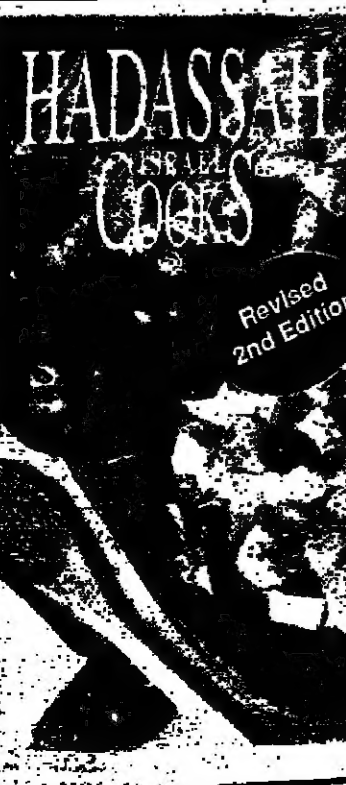
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# 'Carjack' turned infanticide stuns US

CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN  
UNION, South Carolina

SUSAN Smith's new boyfriend was leaving her because he wasn't ready to be a father to her two boys. She was divorcing her husband after accusing him of cheating on her.

"Her whole world was crashing," a law enforcement source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "She caught her husband in adultery. She was having a relationship with another guy and he was breaking it off. He had told her he wasn't ready for a ready-made family."

Police say Mrs. Smith sent her car plunging into a murky lake with 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex strapped into their safety seats. She concocted a story of a carjack-kidnapping, but confessed after nine days of tearful on-camera pleas for the boys' safe return, police say.

A memorial wreath and bouquets of flowers were left at the lake's edge yesterday.

Media reports of the boys' disappearance drew sympathy throughout America as police and volunteers mounted a nationwide search for the children.

The case also touched a racial nerve in this rural part of the American South, since Mrs. Smith, who is white, maintained that the boys' kidnapper was a black man.

New prayers went out for the family and for a community coping with "a lot of broken hearts," as Mayor Burton Williamson Sr. described the town during a memorial service.

"Those children will always be part of all of us," said the Rev. A.L. Brackett, one of several ministers who spoke at the service designed for mourning and racial reconciliation.

Funerals for the boys will be held today.

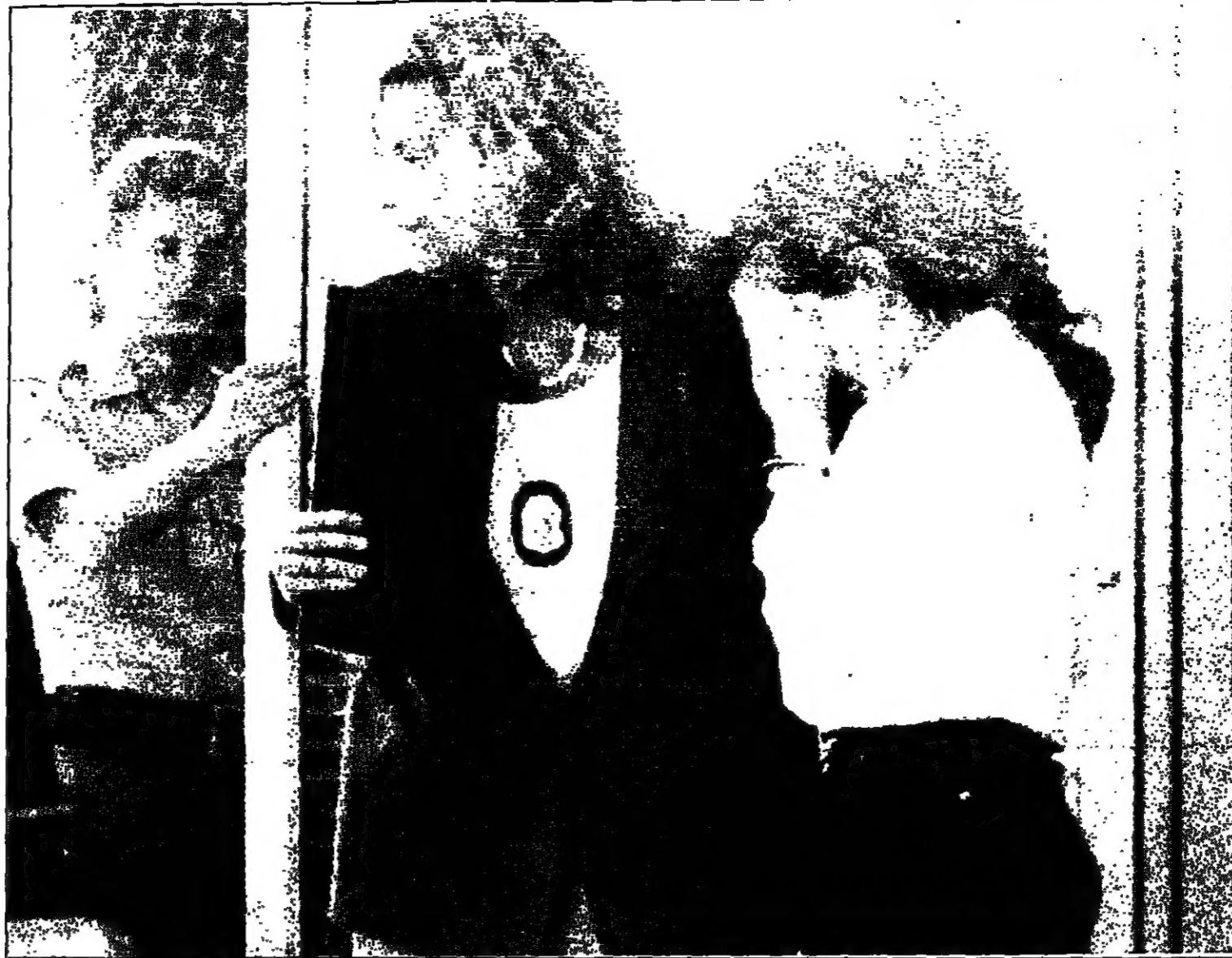
The 23-year-old secretary ducked low in the back seat of a sheriff's car that delivered her to the courthouse through a hostile, jeering crowd. Police held back a crowd of about 100 people that surged forward as Mrs. Smith appeared.

"Hold your head up! You're a baby murderer!" one woman shouted as others yelled obscenities.

"She deserves the same thing that happened to those two kids," said Sarah Sims.

Mrs. Smith's lawyer waived a bail hearing for the murder charges and she never appeared in court. She was taken to a prison near Columbia to be held in isolation for her safety, a spokeswoman said.

Prosecutor Thomas Pope said he may seek the death penalty.



Susan Smith covers her face as she leaves the York County Detention Center in Rock Hill, SC Friday on her way to Union (AP)

Mrs. Smith's lawyer, David Bruck, would not discuss a possible defense strategy or other aspects of the case. All he would say about Mrs. Smith was that "she is heartbroken."

Mrs. Smith's confession led authorities to her car submerged in John D. Long Lake, and the bodies were found in the back seat.

An autopsy indicated the boys were alive when the car plunged into the water on Oct. 25. Sheriff Howard Wells said.

Tom Findlay, 27, said in a statement that he broke off his relationship with Mrs. Smith on Oct. 18.

"I was not ready to assume the important responsibilities of being

a father," he said, adding that there were other problems. "At no time did I suggest... that her children were the only obstacle in any potential relationship with her."

He and Mrs. Smith worked at Conso Products, where Findlay was a graphic artist. Findlay is not a suspect, but authorities were

suspicious of Mrs. Smith almost from the beginning because of inconsistencies in her story, the law enforcement source said.

The Greenville News reported today that Mrs. Smith told police she contemplated suicide at the edge of the lake, the paper said, citing an unidentified source. (AP)

## Clinton rallies Democrat party

LOS ANGELES (AP) - President Clinton wants Democrats to resist Republican appeals to cynicism and anger and is urging Californians to reject the ballot proposal he said will punish the children of illegal immigrants.

In California his political message was specific: Elect Kathleen Brown, sister of former California Gov. Jerry Brown, to the governor's mansion. And give Sen. Dianne Feinstein a "tremendous ovation of victory" in her battle against free spending Texas oil millionaire Rep. Michael Huffington, her Republican opponent.

But Clinton said the success or failure of his bid to persuade voters to support Democrats in the midterm elections and to retain the party's control of the House and Senate depends on the voters' ability to withstand a barrage of negative politics.

"This whole thing comes down to the state of mind of the people of California and the United States on election day," Clinton said at a Friday night rally of some 3,000 people outside the floodlit Los Angeles City Hall.

"If people are cynical or angry they won't vote, or they will vote against their own interests," he said.

The centerpiece of the California race is Proposition 187, the ballot proposal to cut off illegal immigrants and their children from all but emergency state provided services and benefits, including welfare, health care and public education.

Clinton said he approaches the problem as a chief executive who has fought to stem the tide of illegal immigration at the borders, doubling, for example, the number of border guards at the San Diego crossing point to Mexico.

But he said proposition 187 would force the children of illegal immigrants from the schools into street gangs and create health problems that could threaten the rest of the population.

"I hope to goodness you're going to defeat Proposition 187," he said.

"It says that since we are not able to keep people out we are going to punish the children," he said and asked the rally audience: "Don't you think we're punishing children?"

The partisan crowd cheered approval and waved hundred of American flags.

He returned again to his own efforts to quell the surge of illegal immigration.

## Gaullist leader Chirac sets off feud with presidential gamble

PARIS (Reuters) - Gaullist party leader Jacques Chirac, gambling his political future, has touched off a feud in the French right by making a third presidential bid.

Six months ahead of the April 23-May 7 presidential poll, the 61-year-old Paris mayor on Friday became the first major contender to declare that he would run, virtually ruling out the possibility of a joint conservative candidate.

A beaming Chirac, at his best on the campaign trail, yesterday continued a tour of northern France, shaking hands with supporters and avoiding reporters.

The former premier is to make his first comments as an official candidate in a television interview tonight.

Chirac's bid for the presidency has boosted his standing but has also helped left-wing rival Jacques Delors, according to an opinion poll released yesterday. Chirac still trails his two main rivals, fellow-Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Delors. Socialist president of the European Commission.

The survey by the private polling institute IFOP said 15 percent of French voters favored Chirac for next year's presidential election, up from 10 percent before his announcement.

Chirac's rise hurt Balladur, whose standing fell four percentage points to 16 percent, but boosted Delors who gained two points at 19 percent to surge ahead of Balladur.

The IFOP survey, to be published today in the

weekly *Journal du Dimanche*, said Balladur would beat Delors 56-44 percent in a run-off, while Delors would win 53-47 percent if he faced Chirac. There was no immediate explanation as to why Delors would lose to Balladur although he overtook him in standing.

Balladur and Delors pointedly ignored their rival's step forward.

The popular satirical television puppet show *Les Guignols de l'Info* (The News Clowns) pictured an excited Chirac twirling around Balladur and Delors, repeating "That's it, I am a candidate" but failing to draw their attention.

The powerful machine of Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR), the country's biggest party, has already started rolling, issuing what it called a first list of 100 RPR members of the National Assembly, out of a total 259, backing Chirac's bid.

The RPR has called an emergency congress in seven days' time at which Chirac hopes to be appointed its official candidate.

Chirac, dropping the presidency of the RPR to seek an image as a leader above the parties, might then be able to intimidate the more staid Balladur out of running.

Some analysts noted winners in past presidential elections had staged short campaigns. They said Chirac, facing a 170-day marathon to the elections, could burn out and be forced to back out of the race if he failed to catch up with Balladur.

## France stands behind Mitterrand

PARIS (AP) - President Francois Mitterrand never authorized a gossip magazine to publish photos of his illegitimate daughter, but has no intention of suing, his entourage said.

The French press meanwhile unanimously condemned the weekly *Paris-Match* for breaking a long-held taboo against reporting on the private lives of politicians, something seen here as a perversion characteristic of the British and American press.

*Paris-Match* printed 12 pages of photographs and text Thursday on Mitterrand's daughter, identified only as Mazarine, a brunette described as about 20 years old and highly intelligent.

The magazine justified breaking the taboo by saying that Mazarine had become a quasi-public figure

over the past year, taken on official trips and seen frequently in public with her father.

The photographs - one with the 78-year-old president taking Mazarine by her arm, the others showing her accompanied by a young man - were taken by long lens without the knowledge of the subjects, the sources said.

Mitterrand's entourage was informed about three weeks ago that *Paris-Match* had purchased the photos and intended to publish them immediately, the sources said.

The president expressed his opposition. The magazine retreated, then published the pictures without warning, the sources said. Mitterrand has said he would never sue the media.

The scorn heaped upon *Paris-*

*Match* by politicians was joined Friday by most of the press, which had a day to prepare editorials centered on defending its tradition of discretion regarding politicians' private lives.

"There's no real reason to break this essential rule of political life, without which it would be necessary to resign one's self to rule by moralizers, the worst kind there is," wrote Serge July, editor of the leftist daily *Libération*.

The conservative *Le Figaro* took a swipe at "Anglo-Saxon puritanism" and invited the press to remember Jesus' words: "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

The tabloid *Info Matin* treated the polemic with humor, publishing a cartoon of a canine with the president's features captioned, "Mitterrand's Secret Dog."

## Preelection tension prevails in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (Reuters) - Tension rose in the Tajik capital Dushanbe yesterday on the eve of the Central Asian republic's first presidential elections.

Security forces armed with machine guns guarded key buildings and many drivers were stopped for roadside checks after four explosions in the city on Friday.

Presidential candidate Abdulmalik Abdulajonov, challenging parliament chairman and acting head of state Imamali Rakhmonov, flew to his political stronghold of Khojand in the north of the country after spending the night at Dushanbe airport.

Abdulajonov, a businessman, former prime minister and cur-

rently Tajikistan's ambassador in Moscow, said he had initially been prevented from leaving a television studio.

"They didn't let us out of the television building and then we slept here until the morning," he told reporters.

Abdulajonov did not say why he was kept at the studio, where he

had been expected to take part in a television program.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted the government spokesman as saying the delay at the airport was caused by special checks of every plane introduced after Friday's explosions.

They damaged a telephone exchange, the agriculture ministry, a printing house and other Dushanbe buildings. Tajik television reported several injuries.

A senior government official condemned the explosions as an effort to disrupt the election, being held with a referendum on a new constitution for the former Soviet Republic of 5.1 million people.

## Kim readies for N. Korean presidency

SEOUL (Reuters) - Kim Jong-il will soon be officially confirmed as North Korea's leader despite earlier rumors of illness and of a power struggle in the Stalinist nation, analysts say.

They point to the publication of a treatise by him and to several recent reported public appearances by Kim, who spent several months out of the limelight after the death of his father President Kim Il-sung on July 8.

Kim, long designated as his father's successor, wrote an article entitled "Socialism is Science" which was published by the ruling party daily *Rodong Sinmun* on November 1.

"Although socialism has suffered a setback in some countries, it still remains alive in the hearts of the people as a science," he wrote.

"Though socialism has gone through temporarily painful turns and twists owing to opportunism, it is sure to revive and win in the end for its scientific accuracy and truth."

An analyst at South Korea's Unification Ministry said the treatise was the first of its kind published in the North since Kim Il-sung's death.

"In this context, the treatise itself is very meaningful and this can be interpreted as evidence that Kim Jong-il will soon be officially confirmed as Kim Il-sung's successor," said the analyst, who declined to be identified.

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## 'Smart' phone comes to the rescue

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THE electronics and computer industries have given eyes to the blind, ears to the deaf, a voice to the mute and limbs to the crippled. While high-tech devices developed for the severely handicapped are not yet as good as the real thing, they have made an important contribution towards increasing their independence, productivity and sense of normalcy.

The latest development is a one-of-a-kind public telephone, which was installed a few weeks ago at the Alyn Orthopedic Hospital in Jerusalem. Bezek technicians and experts from the hospital's biomechanical engineering laboratory have made it possible for resident patients who cannot control their hands to call home merely by saying a single word.

They worked for months on the device, which is installed in a special booth. "Until now," says laboratory director Nissim Benjaya, "our young patients suffering from cerebral palsy, spina bifida [a partially exposed spinal cord], muscular dystrophy and arthrogryposis [a congenital defect in which muscles are poorly developed and can't move the joints] had to ask an overworked staffer to dial home and hold the phone while they spoke. They didn't like being dependent on others, and they were not comfortable about the loss of privacy."

## Weizmann faculty member thinks small

NEW WORLDS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A world-renowned Russian expert in mesoscopic physics — a specialty involving small systems that may eventually help create minuscule electronic devices — has joined the faculty of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Prof. Arkadii Aronov, the recipient of numerous international awards and a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, received offers of work from several major US universities but chose the Rehovot institute because he "considers its scientific level among the highest in the world." He also likes its atmosphere: "Physicists here don't hesitate to get into passionate scientific arguments — the kind we used to have in Russia — and I find it very stimulating intellectually. Also, Weizmann is one of the very few places in the world where research is still driven by a genuine pursuit of scientific truth rather than pressure to produce immediate results."

Aronov, who serves on the advisory committee of the International Center of Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, has joined Weizmann's department of condensed-matter physics.

"Prof. Aronov has made seminal, and in some cases, revolutionary contributions to our understanding of electronic properties of disordered conductors," says institute Prof. Yoseph Imri. Local and foreign scientists learned a great deal from Aronov's papers long before the Iron Curtain was lifted, Imri continues, "and his predictions have been confirmed by hundreds of experiments around the world."

Aronov, who received his PhD at Leningrad's Institute of Semiconductors and worked at the city's Nuclear Physics Institute and Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, has spent much time in Rehovot in the past three years as part of a collaborative program between the Weizmann Institute and Moscow's Landau Institute. He believes high-temperature superconductors, which show no resistance to electric current at relatively high temperatures, constitute a radically new class of materials and may have major industrial applications in the future.

### MOVING BORDERS

Technion civil engineers hope to join forces with Jordanian counterparts in measuring land movements in the Syrian-African Rift from the Yarmuk to Eilat — now that a peace treaty has been signed by the two countries.

Technion Prof. Haim Papo, who recently organized an international conference on land mapping, said exact geodetic measurements of this section of land have not been carried out during this



This new phone allows patients who cannot control their hands to call home merely by saying a single word.

Benjaya sought a solution from Bezek, which suggested adapting a standard commercially available phone into an independently activated voice phone.

The booth was installed at the height of a person sitting in a wheelchair. Sensors turn on the device and a light when a patient enters the booth. A microphone on the shelf picks up a code word spoken by the patient.

The phone recognizes the voice, registers the code word, searches its memory and automatically calls the pre-programmed phone number, which is

usually the patient's home.

Benjaya can program the device with up to 50 different voices and code numbers. He believes the adapted telephone would be a welcome addition to other institutions around the country whose residents are unable to dial numbers for themselves.

The patients can converse as long as they like. Moving the wheelchair away turns off the device and disconnects the line.

Eitan, a teenager suffering from muscular dystrophy, says he really enjoys using the phone by himself. "I feel more like my own person,

and my conversations can be private," he explains. "And I can call home whenever I like, without having to ask for help." Such autonomy is especially important to teenagers.

Eitan, like dozens of other permanent residents at the hospital, zips around the corridors with a brace holding his head upright — a plastic tube linking a hold in his trachea with a mobile respirator on the back of his battery-powered wheelchair.

Another teenager, looking barely more than a head with arms, entertains himself with a

large radiotelephone attached to his wheelchair.

Despite their disabilities, they are remarkably agile in their wheelchairs and have high cognitive abilities. Most of them, even the youngest ones, speak fluent English learned from British volunteers who help care for them.

Until lightweight batteries and sensitive switching systems were developed to help maneuver their wheelchairs, most patients had to spend most of their time in bed or wait to be transported by hospital staffers.

## Packard Bell wants to put the PC in a shopping cart

ON LINE

DANIEL BAUM

NEW PC hardware releases are not normally very interesting, as basically a PC is a PC, and not that much different from the previous model, and the one before that.

But Packard Bell's new PCs show a trend in the hardware market which didn't exist until very recently. The idea is to turn a PC into a consumer item which you buy in a supermarket, take home and install yourself, and which is bundled with enough hardware, software and documentation to be a self-contained and complete package.

This has been tried before. Apple attempted it, and failed miserably with the Macintosh, which was too expensive and didn't have enough accompanying software to be considered a home computer.

PC companies, including Packard Bell, have tried it before, but usually have failed because of the quality of the bundled software and hardware, and because the technical means to turn a computer into a self-explanatory package were not available.

Packard Bell has attempted to combine the latest hardware with some innovative ideas and easy-to-use multimedia software.

First of all, the casing has colored flashes which can be matched to the decor of your home or office. More practically, the plugs and sockets on the back of the casing are color-coded, to make sure novices put everything in the right place. This is the first time I have seen this feature, which is so simple and so obvious that it should be standard on all computers.

There seems to be little to fault in the hardware configuration. The motherboard is very neat and highly integrated. All the models come with a minimum of 4Mb of RAM soldered onto the motherboard. This can be expanded with SIMM (Single Inline Memory Module) cards and indeed should be, to at least 8Mb, to take full advantage of multimedia software.

Packard Bell has chosen the new PCI bus (expansion slots) as their standard, and have integrated the graphics card and disk controller onto the motherboard using PCI technology. The graphics hardware comes from Cirrus Logic, which is a better choice than the dreadful Oak system used on previous Packard Bell offerings.

I am rather doubtful about PCI. Although it has been adopted by the industry users may find difficulty in the short run in obtaining cards. However, in the long run, PCI allows systems to make use of Microsoft's Plug-and-Play self configuration feature, which is planned for the next version of Windows (should it ever be released).

This integration does have a downside: as the motherboard is nonstandard, it means you are dependent on Packard Bell for future upgrades — you can't simply change the motherboard as you can with a regular clone.

A multimedia kit is available as an optional extra, which includes a Panasonic CD-ROM drive, a proprietary Packard Bell sound card, which seems to resemble a Sound Blaster Pro in capabilities, a pack of CD-ROMs, and a pair of stereo speakers that clip onto the monitor and look somewhat like a pair of ears.

Also available is a proprietary internal fax modem, which unfortunately is limited to a 2400 baud data transfer rate, and software to allow it not only to send and receive faxes, but also to act as an electronic answering machine. In fact, it can even be set to turn itself on to answer the phone, a result of compliance with the US Energy Star standard, and includes a sleep mode, where the computer is off but can be turned on by a software command, a bit like a TV which can be turned on by remote control.

The motherboard can be equipped with any 486 CPU, from the 486 SX up to the 100 Mhz DX4. Secondary cache is optional, which is a pity. This feature, which stores the last-used CPU commands and allows them to be quickly reused if needed, dramatically improves CPU performance in the case of the higher level 486s, and at least 256K is considered essential to allow these CPUs to run as fast as possible.

The bundled software package is very impressive. The central feature is Packard Bell's own Navigator software. This is a very easy-to-use graphical user interface which includes a program launcher for both a large selection of pre-installed bundled software and your own software.

Local users also get the Dagesh word processor. Navigator, and some of the bundled software, are good enough to deserve their own reviews. Packard Bell intends to market the Navigator in future as a stand-alone software package.

The multimedia kit includes the New Grolier Encyclopedia, a world and US atlas, and a set of excellent educational software called Knowledge Adventure.

It also includes a game called Megarace, which is an absolutely stunning sound-and-graphics show disguising a rather simple car racing game. If treated as a demo of what your computer can do, it is brilliant, but don't look for the sophisticated game play.

Overall, I was surprised by the Packard Bell package. It is a bundle of top-quality software and hardware, which provides beginners with an excellent introduction to computers, and experienced users with a fully capable PC with all the trappings, without having to worry whether all the bits — which otherwise would have to be separately installed — work together properly. This really is the first brand-name package I have seen with an advantage over a generic, homemade clone.

Prices, according to Packard Bell, range from NIS 5,500 to NIS 6,500.

## Answering your questions

TELL ME WHY

POST SCIENCE REPORTER

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Please include your name or initials and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

## Medical data for the right price

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

PATIENTS increasingly want to know more about their ailments, what treatments are available and who are the most qualified doctors in the field. Now a private company will supply this information, updated in detail, for a few hundred shekels per patient.

The new service — the first of its kind here and, the company claims, in the world — has been introduced by Marva Medical Information.

"What is unique is that the information is customized for the patient and is relevant to his condition," says Yeshayahu Shani, one of the company's directors.

Patients who place an order will receive a full explanation of their medical problems, conservative and experimental treatments (even those used only abroad) and information about complementary medical techniques.

Shani says this is only information and does not constitute a recommendation.

Marva also provides a list of local and foreign medical centers and doctors who specialize in the specific disease, as well as abstracts of articles from medical journals published about the condition. The company will on request "translate" these into laymen's language.

The company will, if requested, serve as a go-between for the patient and send his medical file to a designated specialist for his or her opinion.

The company says a team of five senior physicians from various specialties serves on its advisory committee. Marva is located at 6 Reines Street in Tel Aviv.

### SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

Do you work at a computer for hours a day but forget to rest your eyes periodically?

A new software program, developed at the Jerusalem College of Technology, will remind you when to take a break. Installed in the computer's internal memory, it "knows" when someone is working according to the user's contact with the keyboard.

After 15 or 20 minutes of typing, the computer advises users to rest their eyes for a few minutes. The first copy was presented to Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein by college administrators. It followed his successful efforts to win recognition as engineers for the college's graduates.

### CLINIC FOR DRY BEDS

A new clinic for bed-wetters, opened at the Children's Medical Center of Israel near Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, claims a 90-percent cure rate among suffering children and adults within four months.

The problem is found among 15% of six-year-olds, 5% of 12-year-olds and 2% of 18-year-olds, according to Dr. Ya'acov Sagi, a psychotherapist who runs the clinic. Many parents blame their bed-wetting children for "not trying hard enough" to reach the toilet in time. This only increases the youngsters' frustration.

Sagi says most cases are not due to organic or psychological problems, but an inability to activate reflexes in deep sleep. Bed-wetting is often inherited.

Sagi says the new clinic teaches bed wetters to identify during sleep the stimulus sent by the bladder to the brain and activate the reflex that prevents urine from escaping. A special device measures the reflex reaction and helps patients use it correctly. Treatment is individual and the costs are not covered by health funds.

### A HEAVY BURDEN

Being overweight in a person's 20s greatly increases the risk of getting osteoarthritis of the knees and hips decades later, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore.

This involves not only the obese, but those carrying around several extra kilos, says Hopkins rheumatologist Dr. Allan Gelber. He calculated that for every extra eight kilos, the risk of developing arthritis in middle and old age jumps by 50 percent. The extra weight is believed to initiate a process in which cartilage in the joints thins, deteriorates and even disappears.

Gelber spoke at a recent meeting of the American College of Rheumatology in Minnesota about the effect of overweight on osteoarthritis, a painful condition that affects a third of all people over 65. His conclusions were based on health data about graduates of the Johns Hopkins Medical School between 1948 and 1964.

Gelber told *The Baltimore Sun* that extra weight is probably not the only factor contributing to osteoarthritis; others, including injuries and congenital joint abnormalities, can also play a role.

## DANGER!

THREE JEWISH PEOPLES

by Avraham Avi-hai

Three Jewish peoples are emerging, threatening an irreparable breach in the age-old history of the Jews and overshadowing the claim that "We are One": Israelis, American non-Orthodox Jews, and the ultra-Orthodox. This book deals with their evolution and tries to understand what makes them different: the way they live and experience life, the national backgrounds which formed them, the way they perceive history and how they see the future. By Avraham Avi-hai, who has served on the staffs of Ben Gurion, Eshkol and Kollek and has headed major international Jewish organizations. Hardcover, 190 pp.

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## Credibility on Jerusalem

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's unequivocal declaration on Jerusalem at the Casablanca conference must have buoyed the vast majority of Israelis. According to all polls and voting patterns, keeping Jerusalem undivided and under Israeli sovereignty is an article of faith for over 80 percent of the population. That Rabin reiterated the government's commitment to this principle in the presence of President Bill Clinton at the Knesset, and then again in a Casablanca forum filled with Arab delegations, gave his words unprecedented credibility.

The only trouble with such statements is that they are belied by what is happening in Jerusalem itself. The Palestinians have learned that facts speak louder than words. And the facts they are establishing in Jerusalem are slowly eroding Israeli authority in the eastern part of the city.

Recent events make this erosion all too clear. When the PLO said that Clinton would not be welcome at the Temple Mount if he arrived accompanied by Mayor Ehud Olmert, the visit was canceled. The cancellation of the visit, a clear surrender to Palestinian threats, was an unprecedented American move: both presidents Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter assumed on their visits to Jerusalem that being accompanied by the elected mayor of the city was unexceptionable.

Yesterday, Turkey's Prime Minister Tancu Ciller visited the Temple Mount without the mayor. The official reason was that Olmert does not accompany guests on Shabbat, but the absence of any Israeli official in Ciller's party makes the deference to Palestinian wishes transparent. Worse, when Ciller arrived at Orient House, a building the PLO and most of the world consider the Palestinian's government house, Israeli security men accompanying her were forcefully prevented from entering. It was impossible not to recall Rabin's threat that if the PLO used Orient House as a foreign ministry, the whole peace process would come to a halt.

Nor are these isolated incidents. The week ended with a clear PLO victory over the Jordanians in the matter of the Muslim holy places. It can be argued that whether the Hashemite Kingdom or

the PLO controls the holy Moslem sites should be of little concern to Israel. But the fact is that the PLO managed to overturn by force a solemn Israeli commitment to Jordan.

In the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, Israel is pledged to preserve the Hashemite privileged status on the Temple Mount. But when Jordan recently appointed Abdel Kader Abdeen as mufti (the ultimate religious authority in Jerusalem) the PLO countered with the appointment of Akhrama Sabri - a Wakf official formerly on Jordan's payroll and now an Arafat man - as its own mufti.

The PLO security services, whose authority is presumably limited to Gaza and Jericho, then threatened with physical harm anyone who would knock on Abdeen's door. Not surprisingly, no one dared defy PLO security chief Jibril Rajub, whom Israel has allowed to extend his authority to the whole "West Bank." And Abdeen - finding himself unemployed - soon stopped showing up in his office. Moreover, the Hebrew daily *Ha'aretz* reported on Friday that Rajub has also warned that if King Hussein visits Jerusalem, his fate would be similar to that of his assassinated grandfather, King Abdallah.

The Hashemites, being realists and survivors if nothing else, were quick to recognize the "facts on the ground." Realizing that Israel was not about to live up to its commitment, both Prince Hassan and Jordan's Prime Minister Abdel Salim Majali promised that they would hand over religious rights in Jerusalem to the PLO as soon as the final status talks establish Palestinian authority in the city.

That Israel could so easily allow its pledge to Jordan to be overturned by Rajub's henchmen hardly enhances Israeli credibility. And the inability of Israeli officials and security personnel to enter either religious or secular areas in Jerusalem mocks pronouncements on eternal Israeli sovereignty in the city. Indeed, such retreat in the face of Palestinian pressure even before negotiations on the city have begun seems to indicate that Rabin's vows on Jerusalem should not be taken any more seriously than his oath never to relinquish the Golan.



## The pollution process

LEV FISHELSON

ENVIRONMENTAL problems lurking on our doorstep are causing deep concern to all those who can see the future around the next bend. The situation today is frightening. The more we study, the more we fear to proclaim our fears.

It is well known that a buildup of copper, lead, chromium, mercury and toxic chloro-organic compounds is occurring in most large cities in the world. The Brazilian cities of Sao Paulo and Curitiba are called "the valleys of death" because of their extraordinarily high rate of deformed and stillborn children.

Parents strolling with their children in Tel Aviv today are jeopardizing those children's health by exposing them to a variety of toxic gases. Ironically, the parents are breathing different air from their children, as they are about 1.5 meters higher.

Polluted air enters rivers, lakes, and seas. Dozens of wells in Israel, and thousands in Europe, have been closed owing to pollution.

The search for easy solutions means that we are living now at the expense of the future.

One small example of this is provided by what we are doing with the chemical waste and ash produced by burning coal at the Hadera power plant.

In 1990, the "burial" at sea, at a depth of 1,500 meters, of 32,000 tons of waste annually was approved. Here's what's included in these 32,000 tons: 2.5 kg. mercury, 145 kg. chromium, 360 kg. arsenic, 600 kg. cadmium, 500 kg. copper, 600 kg. nickel.

In the 600,000 tons of ash that went the same way, hundreds - if not thousands - of kg. of toxic elements can be found.

It is to be expected that the amount of waste discharged will double over time. And if we calculate for the next decade or two, we must recognize that we are constructing a time bomb only 20 km.-30 km. off our shores.

IS THERE a solution? Of course

### POSTSCRIPT

ONE OF BRITAIN'S most treasured traditions is at risk. London's transport authority is scrapping a rule making people line up in an orderly queue at bus stops.

London Transport decided to scrap the regulation, which is not enforced but rigidly observed, after lawyers discovered it during a campaign to get rid of red tape.

The rule was passed in 1938 and scrapping it will involve a vote in Parliament.

But a London Transport spokesman said the traditional orderly line at bus stops - and the traditional howls of rage when unwitting tourists jump the queue - will not disappear. "This is not the end of the queue," he said.

"People in Britain are so well behaved. They queue even when we don't want them to queue. When one of our inspectors says 'Please use all the doors,' they still queue."

"I don't think people will change at all. Until this morning most of the British public had no idea of the existence of this law - and they still queued up," he said.

CALL IT a case of puppy love - with a messy ending.

Becky Davidson's half-carat diamond engagement ring she'd had for only a week vanished after she put it in her shirt pocket. The prime suspect: Darwin, her 12-week-old beagle.

She and her fiancé, both of Miami, decided it was worth a visit to their veterinarian. An X-ray showed the ring in the squirming beagle's tiny stomach.

Darwin was spared the knife. Instead, the vet recommended allowing the incident to proceed to a more natural conclusion.

When Darwin duly returned the ring, it was "not very pleasant," said Davidson. "But it was a great relief," she added - probably for both her and the puppy.

there is. The ships that bring in the coal could haul away the ash and return it to the empty mines. Clean on both sides of the line.

Costly? Possibly. But much healthier, and much better for the future.

Israel is currently undergoing a dynamic period of growth and change, particularly with the developing peace process and the predicted industrialization of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The foreseeable population growth, and the concomitant industrial expansion, could lead to a

People are taken up with the peace process. But another, insidious one is slowly going on

blatant disregard for the basic concepts of environmental quality, nature conservation and sustainability.

A recent example is the use of solid waste to produce "new land" on Jaffa's seashore.

For more than 15 years, the Tel Aviv Municipality encouraged the disposal on this site of solids, including organic leftovers, car skeletons and other substances. As a result, the sea washes a huge amount of this dirt annually onto the beaches of Tel Aviv. The waste has also killed marine fauna on the flat rocks of the shallow shoreline.

Another example is the large chemical and metals industry centered around Haifa Bay. Many of the small, often unlicensed shops there disregard the basic concepts of environmental protection.

As a result, numerous birds and mammals in the area are laden with metal ions such as lead, nickel, mercury and the even more toxic polychlorinated biphenyls, all of which trigger major pathological processes.

All this may appear less important than the major problems Israel is currently facing. But unless the pollution process is immediately stopped, it will affect the health of future generations and the dubious stability of our environment.

Add to this the establishment of new settlements without proper connection to the sewage system and the pollution of rivers and aquifers by various organic chemicals, and the picture becomes very depressing indeed.

Even worse, all this is happening at a time when the necessary laws and regulations are already in place, and a ministry has been established to preserve our environment.

With modern technology and know-how, we can eliminate most of the toxic emissions we are releasing into our habitat. The problem is recognizing that doing so plays a vital role in preserving our very existence.

If our decision makers and environment ministers only consider this one of their major tasks, we shall begin to see a much brighter tomorrow and a healthier life for future generations. Today, many pollution problems can still be solved at relatively low cost.

Our current technological capability makes it clear that there is no inherent contradiction between development and conservation. The more we learn about recycling and managing our resources, the less "progress" will adversely affect our biological world.

What is needed is sustainable development, so that the present use of the environment and its resources does not endanger their use by future generations. It is neglect of this principle that has caused our current environmental problems.

"Man is just a small country," the poet Shaul Tchernichovsky wrote, "man is just a part of the land."

The writer is a professor of zoology at Tel Aviv University.

## Magic machine

JOHN BURGESS

How easy it is to get cynical about computers.

Almost every day comes news of an office network that fails and paralyzes a company, of software that is years late, millions over budget and still doesn't work, of a spell-checker program that "corrects" a right word into a wrong one.

At times we feel at the machines' mercy, propelled in directions we would rather not go. The technology keeps growing more complex, more demanding, more intimidating.

But every now and then, it's worthwhile to think positive, to take stock of the computers that work, that we use daily without thinking, that have made a difference.

And that would have most of us screaming if taken away.

Herewith is an unscientific compiled list of areas that the machines have forever changed.

Banking: Have you ever been to a country where banking still runs on paper? You wait in line, deal with a teller, then take a number and sit down. If you're lucky, the clerk takes only 30 minutes to go to a back room and rummage through giant ledgers to see if you have money.

Remember how ominous the term "banking hours" used to be? We had to build a trip to the bank into our weekly schedules. The price of missing that trip was cashless weekends, or the embarrassment of mooching from friends. Now we expect 24-hour access to our money at machines.

TIME-KEEPING: When I was a boy, you had to spend hundreds of dollars to get truly accurate time on your wrist. It was common for watches (even those allegedly packed with tiny jewels) to lose or gain 10 minutes a day, and break after a few months.

You can still spend as much as you want on a watch, but \$10 or \$15 will buy you one that is off only by seconds a month, and lasts for years. There's more: It will wake you with an alarm. Squeeze a button and it will turn into a stopwatch, and tell you precisely how many seconds it takes from front door to bus stop. As a boy, I always wanted a stopwatch, but never had the money for one.

Computers? We may curse 'em, but we wouldn't be without them

Telephone service: We used to think nothing of waiting hours for an overseas call to go through. We would tell an operator the number, and hope for the best. Now we dial the digits and, in a few seconds, a telephone is ringing a continent away. Computers make that happen.

Calculating: People under 30 won't believe it, but there was a time when we balanced our checkbooks by hand. Or didn't balance them at all. Of course, there are plenty of people who still pursue that route. But the point is that, if you want mathematical accuracy, you can get something that does the numbers as accurately as any child prodigy.

Medical research: The huge human genome project, which proposes to unlock the basic genetic code from which we are constructed and possibly tame AIDS, cancer and a host of other incurables, depends very heavily on computer-generated analysis of genetic structure.

Gasoline: You don't need to stand in line inside the service station to pay. You slip your card into a pump. A networked computer inside it validates the card in a few seconds. You pump your gas and hit the road. And cars go further these days because of "electronic engine management," a collection of chips in your car that control such crucial elements as spark plug timing and air flow.

Of course, each of these successes carries a potential cost. If kids can punch buttons to get a sum, they may not learn basic arithmetic. We may lose something in a world in which a watch is a throwaway commodity, not a possession to be saved for, lovingly chosen, then cared for through the years.

But I think that most of these things, and plenty of others, have been for the better. We can never go back and, in most cases, wouldn't want to.

Imagine the protests if somebody proposed removing computers from medical research labs, or that banks go back to paper ledgers.

One thing that stands out about the positives - they tend to be technologies that began 15, 20 or even 30 years ago. There's been plenty of time to rethink and refine, and turn them into things that really work.

If we're lucky, there will come a time when we can say the same about desktop applications, where, for now, the benefits are often so ambiguous.

Keep that in mind, next time the office network fails and takes the memo you're writing with it.

(Washington Post)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GOVERNMENT FAILURE

Sir, - Several hundred mourners stood in solemn reflection as we buried my cousin, one of the 22 tragic victims of the terror attack on the Tel Aviv bus. The whole country is in mourning. The weeks since the kidnapping of Corporal Nahshon Wachman have taken any joy from our joint Nobel Prize winners, and placed in its stead the realization that awards for political courage come far more easily than the rewards of peace.

The immediate knee-jerk reaction of many has been to abandon all negotiations. It is time to march back to Gaza and Jericho and admit that the risks were just too great; that Yasser Arafat has failed to deliver all he promised, that he has failed to repeal the Palestinian National Covenant calling for the armed destruction of Israel, that he has failed to rein in Hamas. We have released security prisoners, made many concessions in the name of confidence-building measures, but while Prime Minister Rabin was abroad, urging John Major to help fund the Palestinian autonomous zones, a terrorist bomb brought unprecedented slaughter to the streets of Tel Aviv.

Our government warns that to turn back now would be to give in. We should not abandon the road to peace

because of a minority of fanatics. We have come too far; are building a meaningful future of regional economic prosperity, where our children will meet in international trade fairs, not face each other in fear, in hate or in conflict. By and large, autonomy is working, the Palestinian Police have been helpful. We should not surrender the hope of peace to the suicide bombers of Hamas.

We are warned by our ministers and their experts that such terrorist threats are inevitable; they are virtually impossible to prevent. Nonetheless, it is recognized that even with peace, Hamas will remain a menace. They are religious fundamentalists bent uncompromisingly on our destruction. Our hand has been substantially weakened since we have abdicated much responsibility for our security to our erstwhile foes in the PLO.

While we applaud our visionaries' pursuit of our collective dream of regional peace, we must remind them, too, that the very first duty of government is the protection of its citizens. My government has failed me, my family and the whole of Israel in that duty.

RABBI JEREMY LAWRENCE  
Jerusalem.

### AMERICAN JEWISH SUPPORT

Sir, - In his article of October 3, "Cautious But Helpful Too," Steve Rabinowitz claims that recent polls show that the "great majority of American Jews" support the Rabin government's peace initiatives. I submit that this is certainly not reflective of the views of the majority of those American Jews who strongly identify with Israel or even the majority of the general American Jewish population when it comes to specific policies regarding the West Bank or the Golan. On the contrary, there is great anxiety and concern that Israel's security is being irreparably damaged and undermined by present government policies. Unfortunately recent tragic events are all-too-painful reminders of this.

The results of a recent poll, commissioned by the American Jewish Committee and reported in *Near East Report* (Vol. XXXVIII, No. 38, September 19), show that while the majority of American Jews support the Rabin government's peace initiatives in general, less support is shown by various subgroups, particularly those who feel "very close" to Israel. Fur-

thermore, when it comes to specifics of the Rabin peace policies, the general support greatly disappears. This is illustrated by the poll findings that show that while 61 percent endorse the autonomy plan as it applies to Gaza and 51 percent as it applies to Jericho, only 34 percent favor extending autonomy to other areas in the West Bank. With reference to the Golan Heights in order to reach a peace agreement with Syria, a majority of American Jews answered either "none of it" (32 percent) or "only a small part of it" (27 percent). By contrast, 27 percent favor giving up "some of it," 4 percent "most of it," and 3 percent "all of it."

Clearly, the most recent polls appear to indicate that the majority of American Jews do not support the Rabin government's policies to turn over the West Bank to the PLO and the Golan to Syria, notwithstanding Mr. Rabinowitz's claim to the contrary.

ERNEST ELOVIC  
Cincinnati.

### SEPARATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE

Sir, - I refer to Alan Dershowitz's article, "Let's preserve church, state separation," which appeared in *Perspective* of October 16.

After his televised debate with William F. Buckley Jr., Alan Dershowitz writes, "wherever the power of the state has come to the aid of religion, we have seen liberty endangered." Dershowitz fails to mention that, in this century, it was the nonreligious, pagan Nazis and Marxist-Leninists who utilized the power of the state to destroy liberty.

Today, because many moral issues have been maneuvered into the political arena by special interests, often with government sanction and aid, the state has usurped the legitimate responsibility and authority of the religious community. Ironically, in this way, "the wall of separation" between church and state that Dershowitz so passionately defends, has already been breached.

KEVIN E. ABRAMS  
Jerusalem.

### JEWISH PRESENCE IN GAZA

Sir, - Your editorial "Slaughter in Tel Aviv" (October 20) states that Gaza was "the land of the Philistines in biblical times." This is only partially true. In the Book of Joshua (15:20, 47) it is written: "This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah... Gaza with her towns and her villages, to the river of Egypt." And the Book of Judges (1:18) explicitly states that, after the death of Joshua, "Judah captured Gaza with its border."

While the Philistines did occupy the region for a period of time, a flourishing Jewish community subsequently existed in Gaza as early as the third century of the common era. Archaeological excavations in 1870 in the area revealed a synagogue more than 1,500 years old. Though Jews were forced to flee Gaza when Napoleon laid siege to it in 1799 and were later expelled during World War I, they have repeatedly returned to resettle it, as they did once again after the 1967 war. The Jewish presence in Gaza, therefore, is deeply rooted in our people's history and heritage.

MICHAEL FREUND  
New York.

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November 6, 1994

# PERSPECTIVE WEEKLY

مكنا من الأهل

A review of commentary and humor from American press syndicates

## FEIFFER®



## As Bad as the French

There's a disturbing pattern developing in the American-Russian partnership. First, the Russians, on behalf of their Serb friends, blocked American efforts to lift the arms embargo against the government of Bosnia. Now, with American troops in Kuwait to thwart Saddam Hussein's forces, Boris Yeltsin's foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, appears in Baghdad offering Saddam Hussein a diplomatic way out of a crisis of his own making. Kozyrev's trip was a replay of Yevgeny Primakov's visit to Baghdad in January 1991, a Soviet move that nearly derailed America's drive to go to war. Then, as now, Russia's unilateral steps hinder U.S. efforts against the Baghdad regime, and threaten to split the anti-Iraq coalition.

There are two innocuous explanations for Russia's latest actions. First, Yeltsin simply may be asking a show of great-powerhood in order to pre-empt his critics on the far right in Moscow, and has no intention of actively getting in the way of American objectives. Second, Russia is desperate for cash, and wants Iraq to be able to sell oil again, so it can buy Russian oil equipment and raise the \$10 billion it owes Moscow. The same blend of commercial interest and great-power pretension explains why France has joined the campaign to ease U.N. pressure on Iraq.

Obviously, the Russian Gulf gambit has to be seen in the light of the American interest in Yeltsin's survival. Still, a less sanguine reading of the Russians' behavior is that they fully intend to assert and pursue their interests unilaterally, whether it suits their American partners or not.

The implications for the Middle East, a traditional zone of Russian imperial interest, could be especially worrying. The entire post-Gulf war order in the region, including the ever-fragile Arab-Israeli peace process, is predicted as the end of great power rivalry, and the absence of an Arab strongman around which radical forces can coalesce. Both conditions would be altered if the Russians reassert themselves. If Saddam decides he can, once again, become the military and economic client of Moscow, his position in the region will radicalize. (The same goes for Hafez al-Assad of Syria.)

The United States has itself to blame for the fact that these worries can still arise. President Bush failed to finish off Saddam's forces — and possibly Saddam,

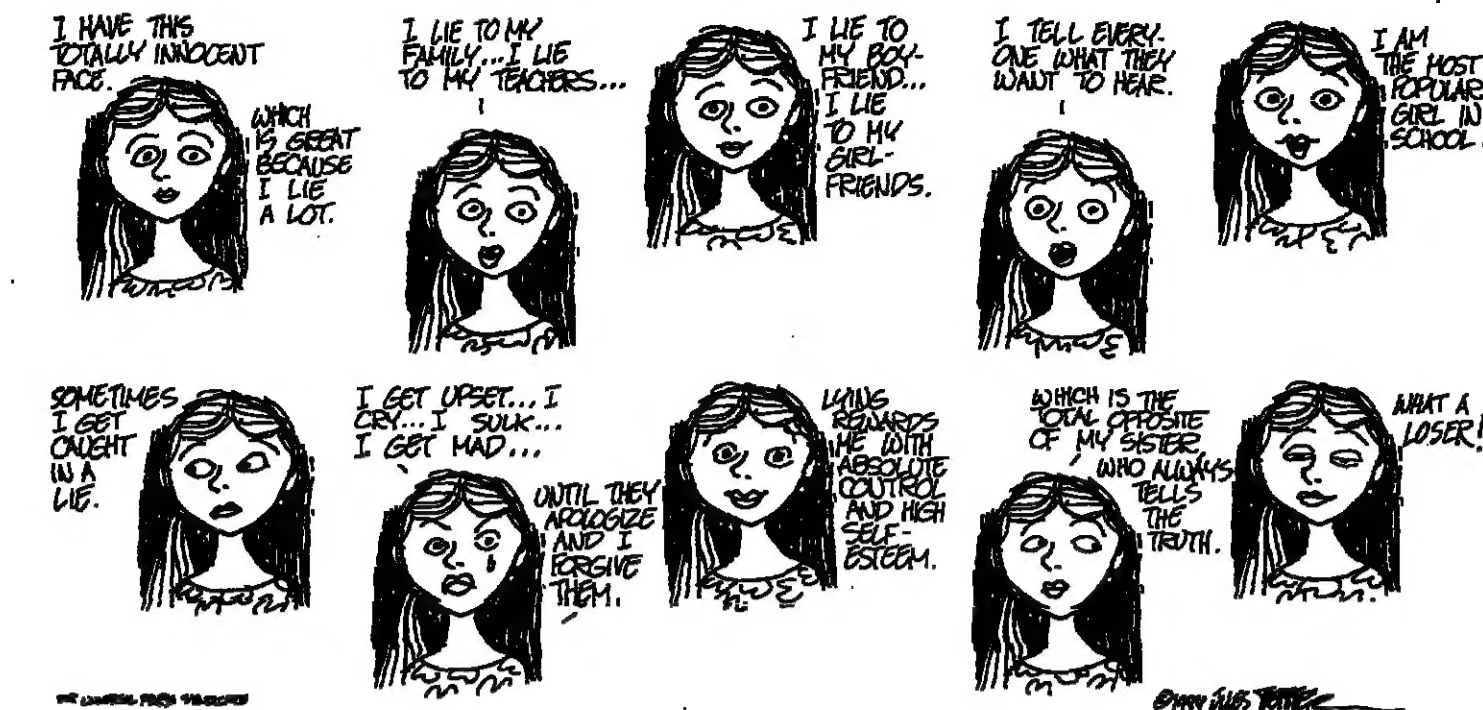
too — when he had the chance in 1991. U.S. policy under both Bush and Bill Clinton has been trying to balance incompatible aims: to destroy or contain the threat posed by an overly strong Saddam-led Iraq, while keeping Iraq territorially intact as a counterweight to Iran. Hence, in part, the Clinton administration's hesitation to strike from the air unilaterally against the Republican Guard, lest it pave the way for Iranian-influenced Shiites to take Southern Iraq.

This aside, the Clinton administration has met the Iraqi challenge with a laudable, and, for this administration, refreshing blend of military resolve and rhetorical clarity. Thanks mostly to the president, Saddam has been at least deterred. And for now, it appears that his outrageous flouting of the U.N.'s will has embarrassed both Russia and France enough to temper their bid to lift the sanctions. By failing to recognize Kuwait's borders as promised, Baghdad undid Kozyrev's plan for lifting sanctions after a six-month "probation period" during which Iraq would be required to demonstrate it wasn't building any more weapons of mass destruction. Still, the foreign minister says he isn't giving up.

In the Balkans, a Russian mission, supported by the French, hampered the U.S. effort to help arm the Sarajevo government. But at least it also resulted in Russian pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to sign a peace plan, which drove a wedge between them and their Belgrade sponsors. Such a demi-victory for the U.S. would be unsatisfactory in the Gulf, where American interests are even clearer than they are in Bosnia — and are totally incompatible with a situation in which Saddam avails himself of Russian or French trade to rearm and rebuild.

These are the inherent difficulties of pinning American policy inflexibly to U.N. Security Council resolutions, when at least two members of that body do not fully share our objectives. The next steps in the Gulf will require as much resolve in dealing with the United States' partners as the president has just shown in dealing with American enemies. Diplomacy among friends, too, sometimes requires showing a clear and militarily credible will to act alone in pursuit of national interest.

Op Ed is a collaborative effort of the senior editors from *The New Republic*



Eliot A. Cohen

## Borderline Case

### Keeping U.S. forces out of the Golan Heights

The draft peace treaty between Israel and Jordan is welcome news, and naturally points to the last major diplomatic challenge on Israel's borders: peace with Syria under the leadership of President Hafez al-Assad. Attempts to make peace between these two most hostile and suspicious of neighbors will, in turn, give rise to another question: Should the United States send troops to the Golan Heights to guarantee a peace? The U.S. may end up deploying, if not the few brigades of American soldiers that some Israelis were at one point calling for, then at least some 800 uniformed "monitors."

Under the provisions of the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the U.S. and its allies have kept a peacekeeping force on the Sinai peninsula. Proponents of a Golan force will suggest that American soldiers might serve a role similar to the Sinai force: to patrol the territory that Israel conquered in 1967, and which it would cede in return for peace. Indeed, many Israelis are unwilling to accept a peace agreement without an American military guarantee rendered tangible by American soldiers, since Syrian reoccupation of the Golan would reduce Israel's ability to put Damascus at risk, eliminate Israel's intelligence and radar stations on Mount Hermon and place Syria within stone-throwing range of much of Israel's water supply.

The internal Israeli argument over the Golan is sharp. Opponents of the deal make the straightforward case that you cannot trust the Syrians, who have periodically massacred their own population (most notoriously at Hama in 1982), tortured captured Israeli soldiers and turned Lebanon into a Syrian dependency. It is doubtful, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has suggested, that there has been a change of heart in Syria. But even so, it is possible to accept the argument made in private by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that Syria is indeed, for its own reasons, willing to make peace with Israel, if only to reduce its international isolation and to win back the territories lost by Assad (then Syria's defense minister) in 1967. In this view, Israel should cut a deal because a window of opportunity has opened to defuse the Arab-Israeli dispute. To do so would free up Israel's resources and increase its room for diplomatic maneuver when a new set of threats matures — if, for example, nuclear arms and ballistic missiles spread to distant hostile countries such as Iran during the decade.

Whether such a deal makes sense for Israel is for Israelis to decide. Whether it makes sense for the United States, however, is a subject that has been discussed all too little, although it has begun to receive scrutiny from a few independent voices, such as the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which shortly will publish a cautious study of the proposal. Why not put American soldiers on the Golan Heights? Placing soldiers anywhere, but

particularly in the context of a treaty to guarantee peace, means a commitment to wage war, if necessary. That in itself is not a promise to be made lightly, especially in the Middle East.

And in this case, it means something more — a shift in the fundamental strategic relationship with a country that has long prided itself on its willingness to fight its own wars. In the Sinai, American observers and soldiers do little more than what U.N. forces (of which, interestingly, they are not a part) have done in the past; they watch and report. They support a peace that was expected to be durable by two countries that clearly desired it and that were allies of the United States. In the Golan, American troops will help serve as a shield. Israel's determination to fight its own battles has been an important strategic asset to the United States, and the psychological effect of placing American troops on the Golan, far more than putting them in Sinai, will be a powerful blow to Israel's doctrine of self-reliance. It was bad enough, from the Israeli point of view, to have American soldiers firing batteries of Patriot missiles at incoming Iraqi Scuds in 1991. But there the Americans were arguably doing something that the Israelis could not do

what guise would American troops patrol the Golan? If they go overtly as Israel's guarantors and protectors, they are more likely to become targets. But if the United States assumes the posture of a neutral intermediary, it might damage the long-term U.S.-Israeli relationship. Indeed, any American presence on the Golan would be sure to breed tension between the two allies, particularly if, as is entirely likely, the United States leans on Israel to refrain from military activities (retaliatory raids in Lebanon, partial mobilization in the Golan) that might endanger American troops.

There is, finally, the matter of cost. To support the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the United States gave almost \$5 billion to the two countries in 1979 and billions more each year since. One should expect the Israelis to extract similar sums, at least initially, in return for giving up the Golan — perhaps through the gift of specialized surveillance aircraft or other military technology. Presumably the Syrians will insist on a payoff as well, although who will foot their bill is unclear. These sums cannot be taken out of the foreign aid budget, which already is constrained by the vast sums already going to Egypt and Israel. To take it out of defense would be an unconscionable blow to an already underfunded department. And it is unlikely that this administration would divert money from domestic programs.

There are other costs to consider. It is a rule of thumb that each soldier placed overseas ties down four or five others — one preparing to replace him, one retraining following his deployment and one or two more to support the forward-deployed unit. Clearly, a large force on the Golan — a brigade of, say, 100 tanks and several thousand men — would tie down an unacceptably large force from America's rapidly shrinking Army. Moreover, peacekeeping duties detract from soldiers' primary mission of training for warfare, and usually cause atrophy of skills in such areas as tank gunnery and the tactics of larger military formations.

There is no question that the United States should encourage the parties in the Middle East to make peace. But the essential steps must come from them. Other Arab states are edging closer to resolving their conflicts with Israel, suspending trade sanctions, opening liaison offices. Meanwhile, there may be something to be said for waiting to see what kind of partner the Syrian regime after Assad will be. When, someday, Assad visits Jerusalem and speaks to the Knesset, offering not a grudging cessation of belligerence but a real peace, there will be time to consider the role of American observers on the Golan. There is no rush right now. In the past few years, this country has seen enough of hasty and expensive military commitments. Many such commitments have been in the pursuit of the purest aims — which, as we have seen, is no guarantee of their success.

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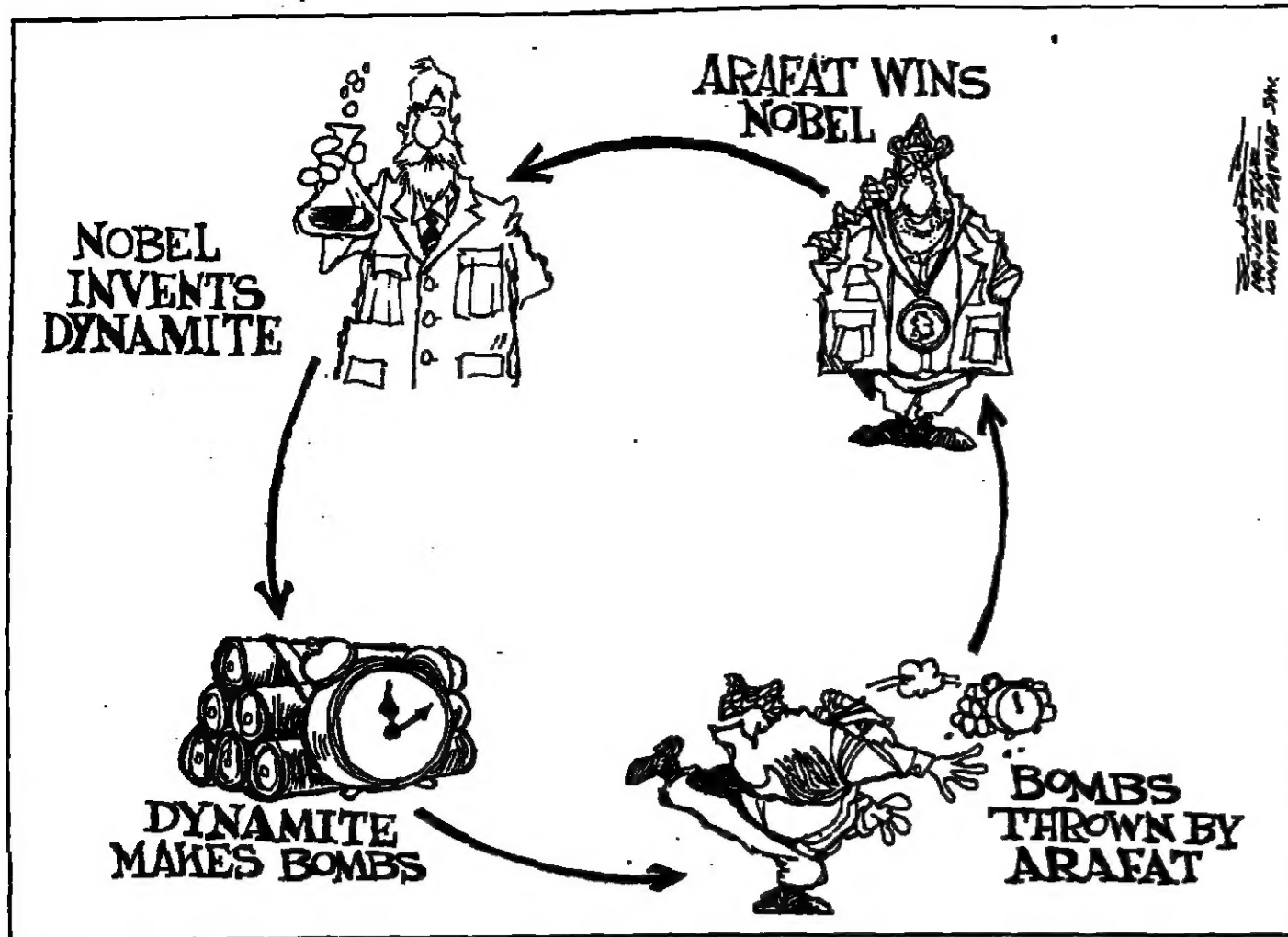
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Editor  
Guy Bernfeld

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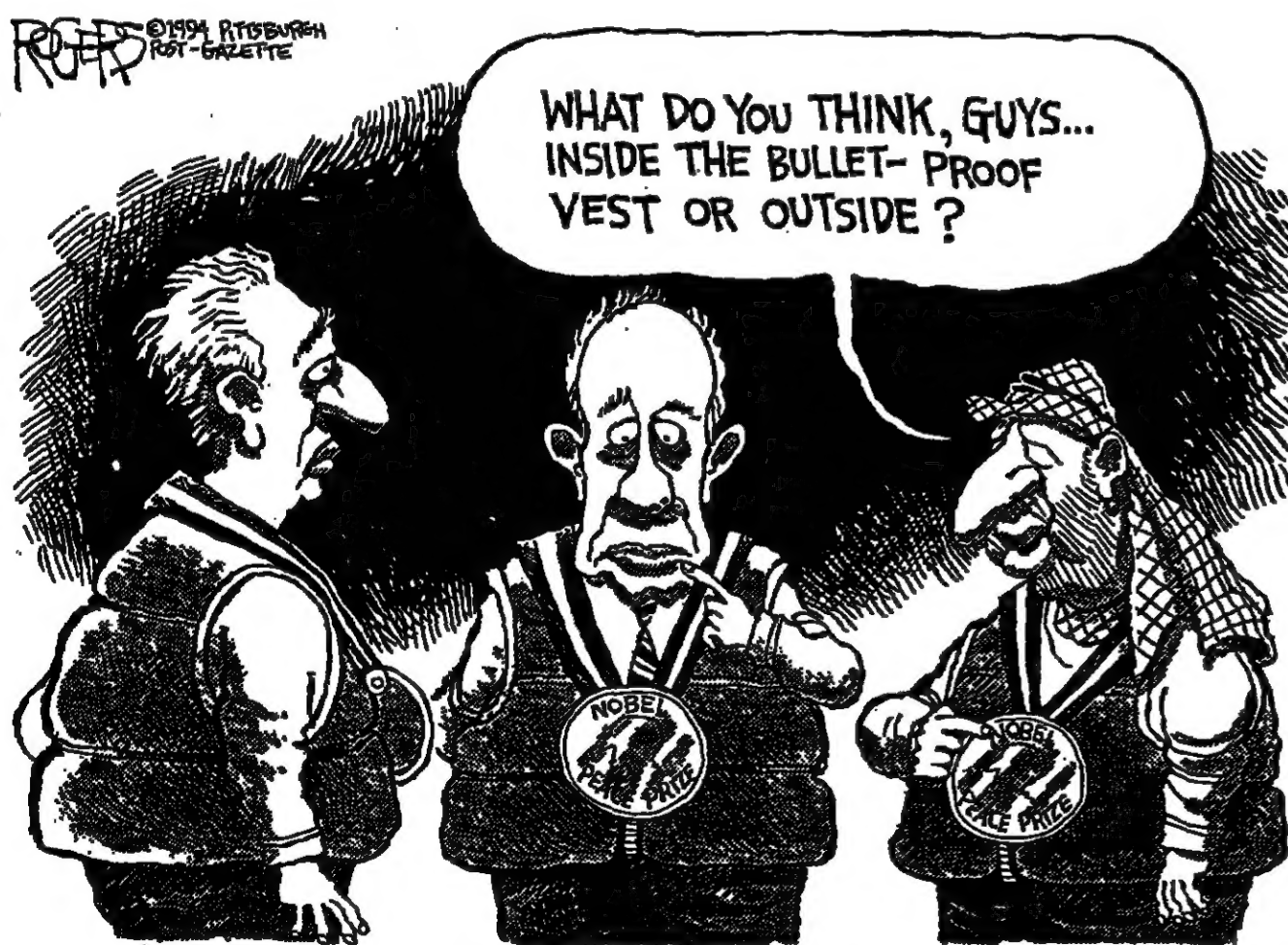
# EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Mike Ludeich  
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



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## Cohen and Solomon How to Talk Back to the Mass Media

You turn on a news broadcast, or pick up a newspaper or magazine, and your blood begins to boil. Pretty soon you're gnashing teeth in enraged silence, or swearing out loud about the idiocies and biases of mass media.

Getting angry is often a valid response to the news and the outlets that bring it to us. Unfortunately, two common pitfalls prevent most people from responding in a creative way: We're usually too passive. Or, if we get over that hazard, we may become too aggressive.

Rather than communicating directly to journalists, many of us are apt to feel too intimidated. After all, those behind the cameras and microphones and newsroom computers are important professionals. Maybe we shouldn't waste their time.

Wrong. Some of the most egregious inanities and imbalances of news media persist because viewers, listeners and readers are too deferential. They don't talk back to the news media that are talking at them every day. As a result, the news industry can be surprisingly isolated from "customers" who seethe in silence or grumble to themselves.

Quite a few folks have the idea that strongly challenging the mainstream media is disrespectful of the First Amendment. Actually, the opposite is the case. When we speak up and speak out,

study or socialize. If you don't feel that news outlets are being responsive to your concerns, mobilize an existing community group — or organize a new one — to voice those concerns.

Treat the media like you would any other political institution — whether it be a government bureaucracy or a company engaging in pollution. If dialogue fails, there are many ways of escalating your protests.

Call meetings so that people in the area can share their assessments of local, regional and national media. Monitor the offending outlets over a period of time, and publicize your research. If those efforts don't get results, you might try mass leafletting or picketing to stimulate public discussion.

But if you've overcome the passivity barrier, don't fall into the trap of stereotyping mainstream journalists; they're not monolithic any more than your neighbors or co-workers are. Avoid the mistake of assuming that all media employees agree with the editorial policies of management.

Sometimes, people get so outraged at what comes off the press and over the airwaves that they become their own worst enemies. Screaming at a newsroom employee is rarely persuasive. Neither is sending a thick document and demanding

**Some of the most egregious inanities and imbalances of news media persist because viewers, listeners and readers are too deferential. They don't talk back to the news media that are talking at them every day.**

we're enlivening the First Amendment by making use of free-speech rights. Those rights belong to everybody, not just media managers.

The remedy to passive media consumption is active media communication. Pick up the telephone, or a pen, or get in front of a keyboard. Provide reporters and editors with the views and information they seem to lack.

Just as you don't need to be a political scientist to fight City Hall, you don't have to be a communications professor to talk back to the media.

Maybe you want to send in a letter-to-the-editor. Or maybe you'd prefer to engage in more private dialogue with specific reporters and editors. Either way, you're moving forward instead of stewing in your own adrenal juices.

Keep in mind that journalists are often very busy and — frankly — overworked. Frequent deadlines are the bane of their existence. Journalists may well want to listen to what you have to say. See if you can arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

And don't hesitate to take your complaints to others where you work, live,

that a reporter read it right away and repent.

Don't harass journalists! Instead, use persuasion and documentation to communicate with them.

It's important to contact the media only about stories or programs or issues that you're familiar with. And it's wrong to call for censorship of viewpoints you deplore; it's much better to urge the inclusion of new, balancing viewpoints. We need more — not fewer — voices.

Mass media have not heard enough from thoughtful individuals demanding tough journalism and wide-ranging discussion of issues. Instead, too often, they've heard clamoring from well-organized hyper-conservative groups that seem more intent on impeding independent journalism than encouraging it.

The public suffers from undue deference to news outlets. Media institutions will never be reliable suppliers of news and views without the constant vigilance of the people they claim to serve.

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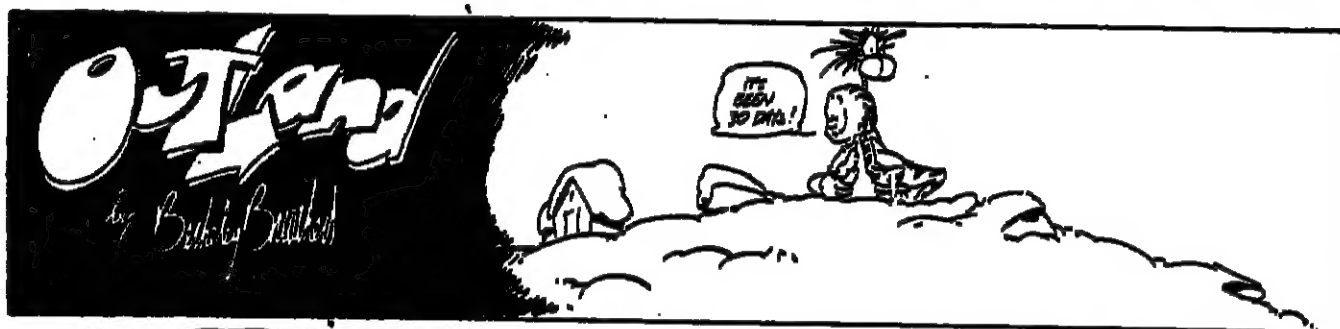
## Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



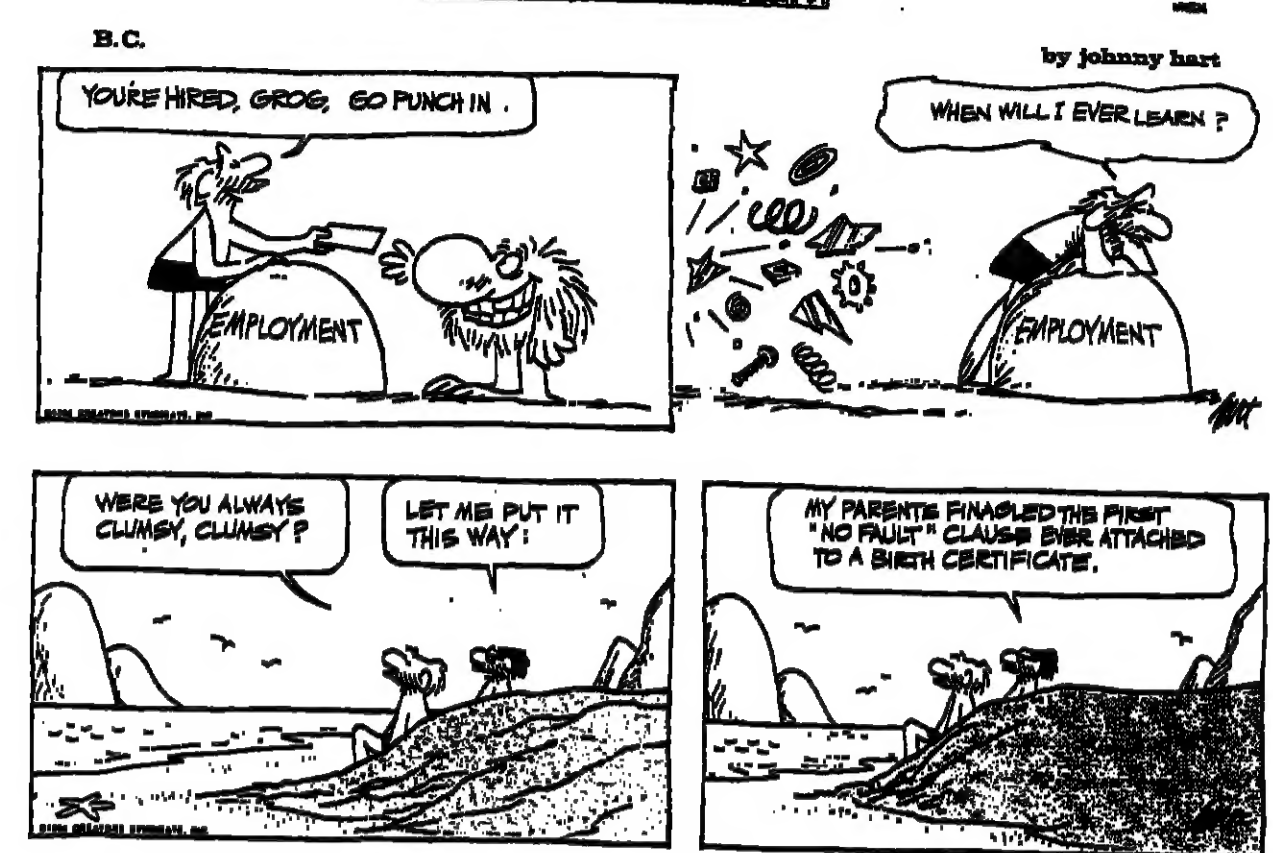
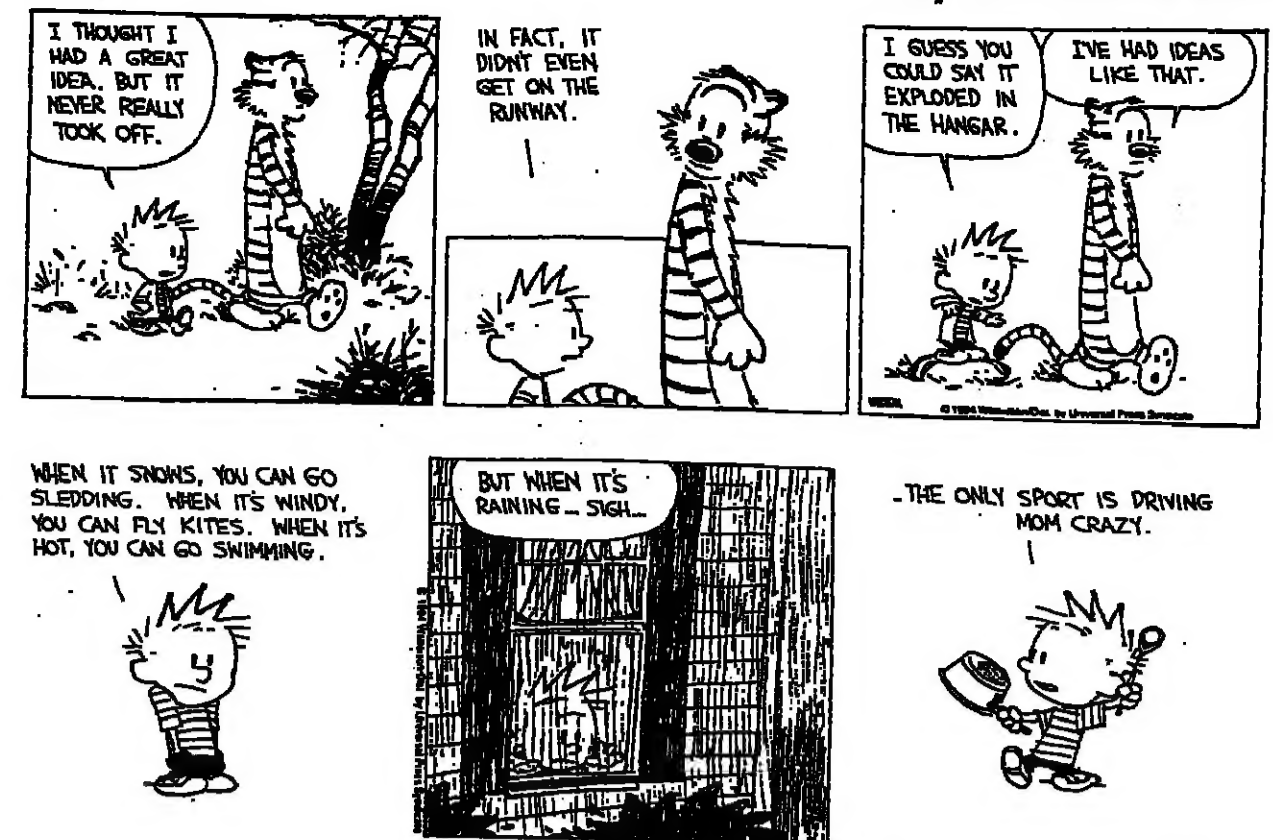
## SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



## Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



## PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



## THE FAR SIDE

by GARY LARSON

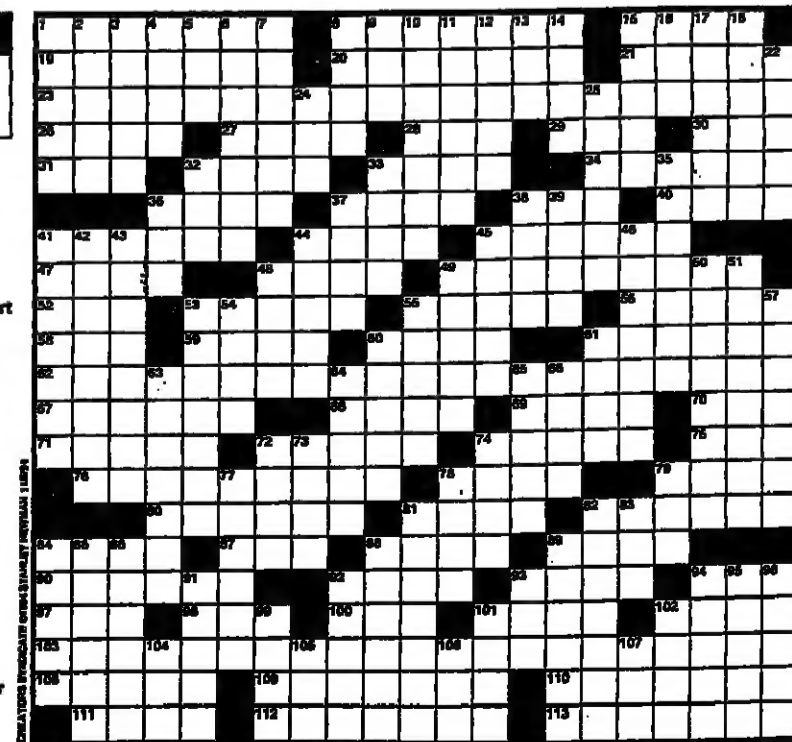


## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman

WAKE-UP CALL: A droll comment on Broadway musicals  
by A.J. Santora

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS                        | DOWN                   |
| 1 Argued with                 | 1 Adjective for 9 Down |
| 2 Error                       | 2 Calm role            |
| 3 Barnstorm                   | 3 FBI neighbor         |
| 4 Menu phrase                 | 4 Grain fungus         |
| 5 More arid                   | 5 Alamos, NM           |
| 6 Author Joyce Carol          | 6 Enlightened          |
| 7 START OF A QUOTE            |                        |
| 8 Barrel of laughs            |                        |
| 9 Fruitless plant             |                        |
| 10 Whopper                    |                        |
| 11 Use a crowbar              |                        |
| 12 Move quickly               |                        |
| 13 Senate assent              |                        |
| 14 With 34 Across, rum        |                        |
| 15 drink                      |                        |
| 16 Champ's trophy             |                        |
| 17 See 32 Across              |                        |
| 18 Exemplar of redness        |                        |
| 19 Insect stage               |                        |
| 20 Humbug header              |                        |
| 21 "The lama, he's a priest"  |                        |
| 22 Post on Prodigy            |                        |
| 23 Rope fiber                 |                        |
| 24 Watering hole              |                        |
| 25 Day grace                  |                        |
| 26 Army vehicle               |                        |
| 27 AUTHOR OF QUOTE            |                        |
| 28 Miserable                  |                        |
| 29 Peachy                     |                        |
| 30 Composer/conductor         |                        |
| 31 Foes                       |                        |
| 32 Twin crystal               |                        |
| 33 Sly Turn                   |                        |
| 34 (Glasgow film)             |                        |
| 35 Insufferable sort          |                        |
| 36 Breathing sound            |                        |
| 37 Towering temple            |                        |
| 38 MIDDLE OF QUOTE            |                        |
| 39 Three-in-one               |                        |
| 40 "I mean for the county..." |                        |
| 41 Subjective sensation       |                        |
| 42 Dungeons & Dragons         |                        |
| 43 best                       |                        |
| 44 Wash basins                |                        |
| 45 After-                     |                        |
| 46 Sacramento                 |                        |
| 47 Scratch the surface        |                        |
| 48 Source of quote            |                        |
| 49 Narrow winning margin      |                        |
| 50 Practical joke             |                        |
| 51 Castles in the air         |                        |
| 52 Nosegay                    |                        |
| 53 Endangered mammal          |                        |
| 54 Southern constellation     |                        |
| 55 Before, to Byron           |                        |
| 56 Boat people                |                        |
| 57 Ump follower               |                        |
| 58 Appeared to be             |                        |
| 59 Antitoxins                 |                        |
| 60 Zodiac beast               |                        |
| 61 Int-bearing                |                        |
| 62 Instruments                |                        |
| 63 "on parle française"       |                        |
| 64 Antidrug agency            |                        |
| 65 Take a part (in)           |                        |
| 66 Raison d'                  |                        |
| 67 Contender's chance         |                        |
| 68 END OF QUOTE               |                        |
| 69 Moral system               |                        |
| 70 Colne                      |                        |
| 71 Pittsburgh pro             |                        |
| 72 Freedom from care          |                        |
| 73 Notch a blade              |                        |
| 74 On, as a horse             |                        |
| 75 Fit to use                 |                        |
| 76 Dameador                   |                        |
| 77 Addams' mumbling           |                        |
| 78 cousin                     |                        |
| 79 Lug around                 |                        |
| 80 Actress MacRae             |                        |
| 81 High country               |                        |
| 82 Auction ending             |                        |
| 83 Make ready, for short      |                        |
| 84 Glass slip                 |                        |
| 85 Big lug                    |                        |
| 86 Person from Provo          |                        |
| 87 Live                       |                        |
| 88 Remarkable                 |                        |
| 89 bargain                    |                        |
| 90 Swimsuit top               |                        |
| 91 Foot parts                 |                        |
| 92 Soup veggie                |                        |
| 93 Minor collision            |                        |
| 94 Way back when              |                        |
| 95 Exclamation of wonder      |                        |
| 96 Skin a banana              |                        |
| 97 The Crimson Tide           |                        |
| 98 Some L.A. thoroughfares    |                        |
| 99 Pills with joy             |                        |
| 100 Mandela's capital         |                        |
| 101 Roping a dogie            |                        |
| 102 Conversation starter      |                        |
| 103 Occupied                  |                        |
| 104 Open shelters             |                        |
| 105 Solidify                  |                        |
| 106 Mrs. Lyle Lovett          |                        |
| 107 Part of EEG               |                        |
| 108 Poe poem                  |                        |
| 109 Godparent, e.g.           |                        |
| 110 Hillary, to Bill          |                        |
| 111 Deliberate                |                        |
| 112 Admit a mistake           |                        |
| 113 Coin of the               |                        |
| 114 Combustible heap          |                        |
| 115 York or Gloucester        |                        |



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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 84 Small bottles      | 82 Optic for             | 84 Enchilada filling  |
| 85 Diagonal's dog     | 83 Sushi fish            | 85 Like some stadiums |
| 86 Banjo ancestor     | 84 Dramatic device       | 86 Cubic meter        |
| 87 Way out there      | 85 Read out loud         | 87 Fundamental        |
| 88 Thin change        | 86 Song-and-dance lady   | 88 Alternately        |
| 89 Deliberate         | 87 April Fool            | 89 -eris relative     |
| 90 Tribulation        | 88 deaf ear to (ignores) | 90 Scale notes        |
| 91 PBS science series | 89 Draw out              | 91 Suffix for prece   |
| 92 Rather or Marino   | 90 More rational         | 92 Druage, with "our" |
| 93 Instrumental suite | 91 AG unit               | 93 All _ up (excited) |

## QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM by Rebecca Kornbluh

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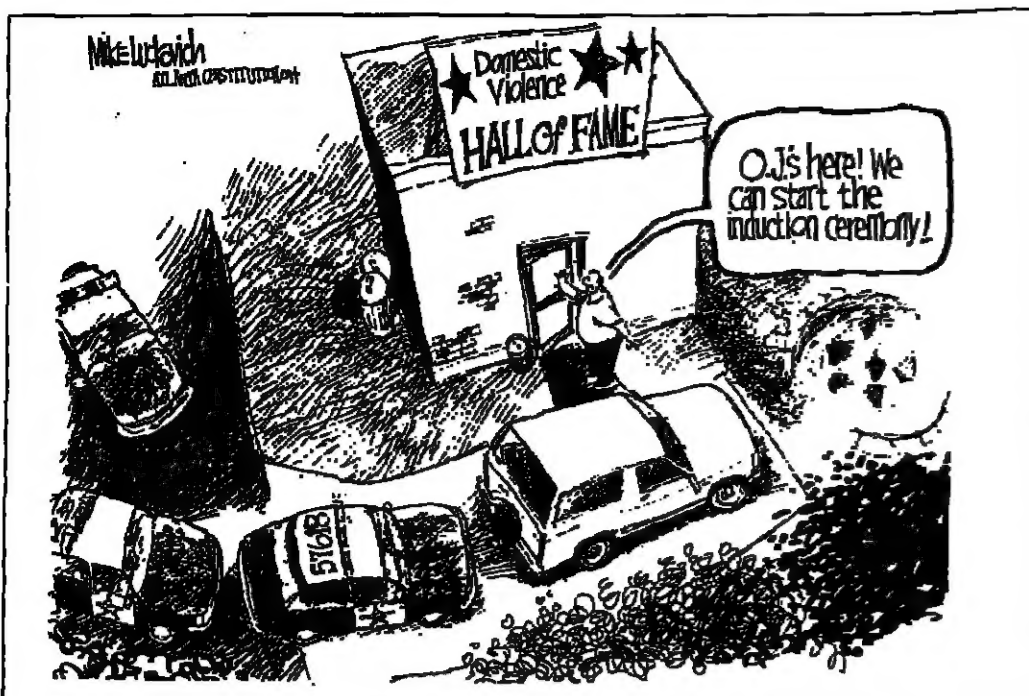
Last Week's Quote Cryptogram: I do not want people to be agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them - Jane Austen



Alan Dershowitz

# Family Violence

Headlines Don't Tell All



Though O.J. Simpson vehemently denies that he murdered his former wife, his case has provoked a flurry of media attention at other husbands who kill their wives. Coincidentally with the Simpson case, the Department of Justice has just released the first detailed empirical study of "murder in families." It contains some surprising information, which contrasts sharply with the media headlines.

The most shocking finding of this study — which analyzed nearly 10,000 cases — is that wives murder their husbands far more frequently than press reports would suggest. To put the issue in context, women in general account for only about 10 percent of defendants charged with all murders. But for all spousal murders, women accounted for more than 40 percent of defendants. And "among black marital partners, wives are just about as likely to kill their husbands as husbands were to kill their wives." When it comes to parents who kill their children, mothers kill more often than fathers.

The real headline of this report, therefore, is that women kill almost as often as men do in the context of family murders, though men much often kill strangers — nearly always other men.

The other shocker in this report is that husbands who kill their wives are not

treated more leniently than men who kill strangers, despite the media myth to the contrary. Indeed, they were as likely to be charged with first-degree murder, were no more likely to have their cases dismissed or diverted and were as likely to be convicted. Nor were their sentences significantly different, when relevant "case characteristics" — such as prior criminal record — were taken into account. Indeed, the only real difference is that spousal murderers "required less time to disposition than other types of murder cases."

Despite this hard data, the myths persist that spousal murders consist almost exclusively of husbands who kill their wives and are then treated leniently by the criminal justice system. Indeed, there is one figure that is strikingly missing from this otherwise thorough report: namely whether women who murder their husbands are treated more leniently than husbands who murder their wives. I phoned the author of the report and asked if that data was available. He told me that it was but that it had not been compiled. I asked him if he would compile it and he did, faxing me new tables which compared the outcome of prosecution based on the gender of the victim and the accused. This previously unpublished data dramatically undercuts the myth that

husbands who kill their wives are treated more leniently than wives who kill their husbands. The available evidence points overwhelmingly in the opposite direction.

Wives who kill their husbands were acquitted in 12.9 percent of the cases studied, while husbands who kill their wives were acquitted in only 1.4 percent of the cases. Women who were convicted of killing their husbands were sentenced to an average of 6 years in prison, while men received an average sentence of 17 years for killing their wives. Sixteen percent of female spousal killers get probation, compared to 1.6 percent for males. By almost every other measure, as well, female spousal killers are treated more leniently than male spousal killers. To be sure, some of the difference may be attributable to gender-neutral factors such as prior record, provocation, or mental illness. But there is absolutely no support in this data for the claim that husbands who kill their wives are systematically treated with kid gloves by the justice system.

Despite the unexpected data produced by this Justice Department study — that wives kill husbands much more frequently than media accounts suggest and that they are treated more leniently than husbands who kill — the press release issued by the Justice Department to accompany the report buried this politically incorrect data under the following politically correct headline: "Wives are the most frequent victims in family murders." But even that conclusion obscures the real picture: that for all family murders — which includes killing of parents and children as well as spouses — 55.5 percent of the victims were males and 44.5 females, and "female defendants were more likely than male defendants to have murdered a person of the opposite sex."

The Justice Department report on "murder in families" sheds important light on a subject that is being obscured by the heat of political rhetoric. The new data strongly suggests that spousal murder is not primarily a male vs. female political issue, as some radical feminists and media commentators insist. Instead, it is primarily a psychological issue of pervasive familial violence on all sides, generated by the passions of family interaction. Misdiagnosing this important psychological problem to fit into a political agenda will delay its proper treatment and cure.

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Andy Rooney

## Is The World Better or Worse?

If you were going to put down the 10 hardest questions to answer, one of them would be, "Is the world a better place to live than it used to be?"

The key to whether things are better or not is happiness and to get a real answer, you'd have to devise a standard of measurement for happiness. Once you had that, you'd measure how much total happiness there is in the world now compared with how much there used to be. Not possible, of course, so we'll never know.

People live longer, we know that, so if we're at all happy living, we have more happiness in a lifetime just by the fact that there's more of it. I remember reading that in the days of Neanderthal man, the average life expectancy was only 29 years. Even in 1850, it was no more than 40 years in the United States. Today, it's 75.

Those of us living in civilized countries think we're happier than the natives of backward countries but we don't know that's true. We equate television and junk food with happiness but there are other standards in other parts of the world. If we had that happiness measurer, we could compare their lives with ours.

We see pictures on television of people starving in Africa but when they're not having a famine, there are happy people there, too.

If the world is a better, happier place, it would have to be because the people in it are better, not because we have electric lights, oil heat, refrigeration, automobiles, airplanes and television. Let's

face it, there isn't much evidence that people are any better or any worse than they ever were, is there? (I'm laying it on you for an answer.) Watch local television news and you'd think we spent our time murdering people in shopping centers or sexually abusing children.

It's true that we have better control of our environment than the people of generations past. Most people on the planet take their basic satisfaction, which I equate with happiness, from the simple process of beating the elements. I guess we've improved at doing that. It's easier to stay warm when it's cold, cool when it's hot, dry when it rains and shovelled out when it snows. If we can do those things and then feed ourselves, we've had a happy day. Music, books, art, theater, news of what's happening and history are all extras that come with civilization but aren't necessarily essential for happiness.

It seems as though we're smarter and stronger than we used to be but I'm not even so sure of that. I don't see a modern Shakespeare on the best-seller list. I haven't heard any new composer superior to Beethoven lately or seen any painter better than Rembrandt or Michelangelo. There's no Leonardo da Vinci on the horizon. Pole vaulters are jumping higher but it isn't the vault, it's the pole.

To keep us going, we need to believe everything's getting better, but we may be kidding ourselves. Maybe there's some great governing rule of eternal constancy.

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Mickey Kaus

## Behind the Curve

In *Losing Ground*, the 1984 book that made his name, Charles Murray pooh-poohed the role of race in America's social pathology. Instead, Murray blamed liberal welfare programs that trapped black and white alike in poverty. "Focusing on blacks cripples progress," he declared in a 1986 op-ed piece (titled "Not a Matter of Race").

because explanations of the special problems facing blacks nearly all begin with the assumption that blacks are different from everyone else, whether because of racism (as the apologists argue) or because of inherent traits (as the racists argue).

But that was then. Now, it turns out that Murray indeed thinks that blacks face problems because they "are different from everyone else," and they are different "because of inherent traits (as the racists argue)" — or, at any rate, because of immutable traits. Elsewhere in this issue, and in a new book, *The Bell Curve*, Murray (and his co-author, the late Richard J. Herrnstein) argue that blacks have, on average, significantly lower "cognitive ability" than whites. Murray connects this disability with all sorts of pathologies (poverty, crime, illegitimacy) and predicts "the coming of the custodial state," in which a low-I.Q. underclass is maintained in a "more lavish version of the Indian reservation."

Just because many people (myself included) resist Murray's vision as alien and repellent doesn't mean he's wrong. But neither does it mean he's right. The question isn't whether it is possible that some ethnic groups have, on average, higher mental abilities than others (it would be odd if every group came out the same). It's whether Murray is a reliable guide when it comes to exploring this possibility. The dishonest book he has co-authored, and the even more disingenuous article this magazine has now published, reveal that he is not.

To make the pessimistic "ethnic difference" argument work, Murray and Herrnstein must demonstrate three things: (1) that there is a single, general measure of mental ability; (2) that the I.Q. tests that purport to measure this ability (and on which blacks score roughly fifteen points lower than whites) aren't culturally biased; and (3) that this mental ability is fixed across the generations — classically, that it's "in the genes."

As a lay reader of *The Bell Curve*, I'm unable to judge fairly the first two claims. But it's pretty obvious that Murray and Herrnstein run into big trouble on step three, because they spend a lot of time trying to undermine

a near-avalanche of evidence that the black-white difference in I.Q. is a function of environment rather than heredity. There is, for example, the convergence of black and white test scores over the past twenty years, which Murray admits has been so fast it is "likely" due to "environmental changes." There is the "Flynn effect" — rapidly rising test scores worldwide. French

as Murray admits in the middle of a crucial — and virtually unintelligible — paragraph (page 33, top left), that only suggests the tests aren't biased. It doesn't show that the difference in ability isn't caused by the environment. The best Murray can do is declare it "improbable" that genes have no role, although he is "agnostic" as to how big a role.

they are to change." And it is difficult to "manipulate the environment so that cognitive functioning is improved."

With this one dramatic move, Murray achieves two seemingly contradictory ends. He preserves his scary extrapolations — the prediction that the black-white gap will persist more or less indefinitely. And he believes in genetic inferiority. Just as by denying of the role

harder to alter. Yes, there are simple cures for some hereditary conditions, like baldness. But as yet there is no Rogaine for the brain. At a recent symposium on his book, Murray delivered a sweeping pronouncement along the lines of the one on page 34 of this issue: "whether the black-white difference in test scores is produced by the genes or the environment has no bearing on any of the reasons why the black-white difference is worth worrying about." What about affirmative action? someone asked. Wasn't the argument that if blacks were artificially vaulted into the middle class, the environment in which the next generation was raised would change? Doesn't it matter for that argument if environment is the key? Gee, Murray responded. He hadn't thought of that example!

There are other, equally obvious policies that might change the black "environment" and therefore black I.Q. scores. Murray himself has proposed one of the more dramatic alterations: abolition of cash welfare, which he says would produce more responsible parents (which in turn might affect even prenatal nutrition).

If ethnic I.Q. differences are not genetic, in short, there is a good chance that by improving the awful environment in which many black children now grow up, America can move the two bell curves in Murray's graphs closer together — close enough for Americans to "live comfortably" by emphasizing common values (work, family, civility) rather than the creepy, half-baked tribalism Murray endorses in his TNR essay. Individualism and integration — why does that combination make Murray flinch?

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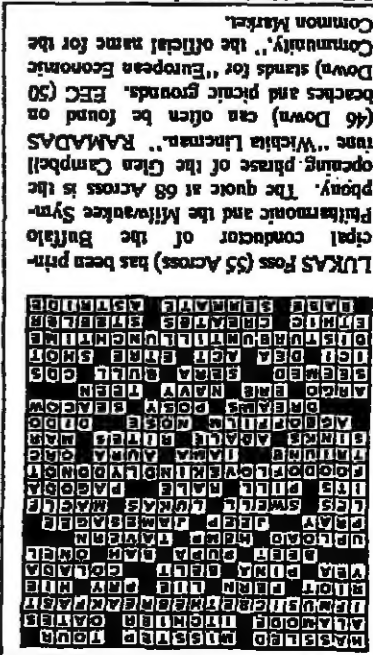
researchers have succeeded in boosting I.Q. twelve points by placing poor children in affluent homes. I.Q.s were also raised almost eight points by the Abecedarian Project, which offers intensive day care for five years.

And what is the evidence for a black-white genetic difference? Murray feebly offers "Spearman's hypothesis," which holds that blacks do worse on questions that tap into general mental ability. But,

The limited role of genes and the proven role of environment in the "black-white difference" would appear to be disastrously good news. What's an apocalyptic thinker to do? Here Murray has a bold, even brilliant idea. Having failed in his effort to show that race differences in I.Q. are genetic, he simply declares "it matters little!" After all, what counts in the end isn't the source of I.Q. differences, but "how hard

of race in *Losing Ground* Murray made himself seem a reasonable, race-neutral scholar, so by denying the importance of heredity in *The Bell Curve* he seems a nice, non-racist fellow.

The only problem with the assertion that "it matters little whether the genes are involved" is that it's crazy. It matters a lot if the black-white difference is genetic, because genetic differences in mental ability are almost certainly much





# Lessons from Haiti on color and culture

KEN RINGLE  
PETIONVILLE

IF Washington is trying these days to teach Haiti something about the peaceful transfer of power, Haiti has plenty to teach Washington.

The first thing concerns the obsession with race and language. If Haiti is not exactly a color-blind society, it is certainly one that understands how much more important culture and economics are in the grand scheme of things.

For example, the accepted and widely used term in Creole for a wealthy, powerful or important person is "Gros Neg" - literally "Big Nigger" - and it applies to whites as well as blacks.

"There is simply no more polite way of expressing the idea," said Haitian Patrick Delatour, a Howard University-educated architect who heads Haiti's commission on historical landmarks.

Likewise, the term for a non-Haitian, or one unfamiliar with Creole and Haitian customs, is "blanc" - white - which also applies to blacks. "I once had visiting me a fellow from Senegal, black as night, and my maid said to me in Creole, 'Will you tell that blanc that it's time for dinner?'"

Much has been written about the divisions of Haitian society and the "wealthy, light-skinned elite" who supported the coup that three years ago removed President Jean-Bertrande Aristide from power. But visitors to Haiti soon discover the skin-color issue is mostly window dressing. An oft-repeated Creole proverb here declares that a rich black is a mulatto and a poor mulatto is a black.

The important differences in Haiti are those of history, culture and class - so important they once divided the country in two.

In the early years of independence, Haiti was two countries. The south was settled by followers of the *affranchis*, a small minority who before independence had been free blacks or mulattoes and who prided themselves on the French language, education, heritage and culture they believed lifted them above the common peasantry.

The rest of the population, 95 percent pure black African, had little time or patience with such refinements. They were too busy surviving. They were overwhelmingly rural and poor and spoke



Haitian attitudes to skin color are expressed in a Creole proverb: A rich black is a mulatto and a poor mulatto is a black. (CPL)

Creole, the Africanized pidgin French that evolved into a formal language.

Those divisions have endured to the present day, with the urban upper class - maybe 15 percent of the population - effectively controlling the government and economy through its traditional corner on European education, training

and language. But nowadays even the upper classes speak Creole - though they continue to favor French - and one encounters plenty of French-speaking *Gros Nèges* who are, in fact, black.

The second lesson Washington can learn from Haiti is about urban priorities. Cities throughout the world were originally formed

for two basic reasons: to provide markets where the small businessman could sell his goods, and to protect the inhabitants from attack.

Port-au-Prince is a fascinating study in contrast. Outside of the political violence that long troubled Haiti, the city is and has been for years at the street level almost

entirely unregulated.

Yet its teeming streets are remarkably low in crime and the entrepreneurial fervor makes Hong Kong, by comparison, look fast asleep.

With no speed limits and few traffic controls, vehicles move in a clamorous Haitian dance of forcefulness and courtesy that some-

how merges racing Land Rovers and wandering goats, sagging jitneys and dilapidated taxis, sugarcane carts, wobbling overloaded bicycles and people-packed cars and motorcycles driving at night without lights.

"You see, in actuality no one has the right of way," cab driver Nader Elioner explained the other day while swerving to miss a darting pig. "It is very necessary to understand the rhythm."

The commercial rhythm is as exciting as the traffic. Though piles of garbage abound and many downtown streets appear to have been unpaved since the days of Toussaint-L'Ouverture, the country's 18th century liberator, no street is less than commercially hyperactive, with vendors peddling everything from dishpans to coconuts. Bargaining is frenetic, but theft and cheating are rare; a sidewalk money changer will thrust his entire roll of bills in your car window so you can select what you wish to exchange.

Even amid almost epidemic hunger and poverty, according to several authorities here, Haitians in the streets prey on each other with remarkable infrequency. Nobody has time to just hang out on street corners, and drug sale and use on the street, say Haitians rich and poor, are almost unknown.

"You see," says Delatour, "the Haitian may be physically very poor, but spiritually he is very rich. Because he does not belong to a consumer society. He belongs to a producer society. So his idea of who he is comes not from the brand of sneakers he can buy, but from how much he can grow on his land or sell in the street or otherwise meet the challenge of getting through the day."

(The Washington Post)

## Are you listening? I'm washed up

KISHON'S KEYHOLE  
EPHRAIM KISHON

I am lying on my bed fully dressed. The light is on over my head and under my feet are the morning papers. My brain is racing. The little woman sits in front of the mirror and applies bioplacenta cream to her face to rejuvenate the cells of her skin.

This is the hour of truth for artists my age. I've been going around with my problem for weeks and I can be silent no longer. I must talk it over with someone; what I do now will decide my fate for the next 10 years. Why else does a man marry his wife?

"Darling," I say hoarsely, "I must tell you something and please don't get upset or jump to conclusions. I've felt this coming for a long time. The point is - I think I've come to a dead end in my writing. It's worse than just a writer's block. It's a creative impasse. I've been thinking maybe to give up writing altogether. Or at least for a year or two. I'm all drained. I need a rest..."

The wife applies bioplacenta and keeps silent.

"Do you think I'm right?" I ask anxiously. "Tell me honestly: do you think I'm right?"

The woman turns to stare at me. I'm on tenterhooks.

"Ephraim," she says at last, "we've got to buy Rafi's kindergarten teacher something."

"When?"

"She's leaving at the end of the week. Her husband got transferred to Beersheba, we've got to buy her some present."

I've a feeling her answer is not relevant.

"Tell me," I say in a slightly raised voice, "why can't you listen when I talk to you?"

"I do listen," says the wife, starting on a new layer of the salmon-pink stuff. "I remember every word you said."

"What did I say?"

"Tell me why don't you listen when I talk to you?"

"Right, then why don't you answer?"

"Because I'm thinking, that's why."

"Hm, well, I admit that my problem isn't easy. Do you think," I say, "that I ought to somehow make an intellectual effort to overcome my temporary lassitude?"

The little one didn't answer. "Are you listening?"

"Of course I'm listening. I'm not deaf. An intellectual effort to overcome your temporary lassitude?"

"So?"

"A box of chocolates."

"What?"

"A box of chocolates. Not too expensive, and always welcome as a present, don't you think?"

"Yes," I agree at once, "but that doesn't solve my problem, dear. If I do stop working for a year or two - what then? How do I fill the spiritual void, I mean?"

The wife slaps herself lightly with her eyes on me. The eyes say "kindergarten teacher."

"Are you listening at all?"

"Don't keep asking me that. The spiritual void I mean."

She remembers every word. "I figured," I say, "that I might do a bit of painting or music to start with."

"Why not?"

"And in time I might take up alligator yoga."

"Uh-huh."

She takes a piece of tissue and rubs off the bioplacenta with raised eyebrows.

"Anyhow," she mumbles, "one's got to think of everything."

I have nothing to say to that, so I say nothing.

"Ephraim, why don't you say something?" asks the woman.

"I'm thinking. I'm thinking, it would be a good idea to cut up the maid and pack the pieces in a green suitcase."

The little one is deep in her own thoughts. She's leafing casually through a woman's magazine.

"Are you listening?"

"Pack the maid in a green suitcase."

Every word. She does something with her eyebrows with a little brush.

"I give my thoughts free rein. We could buy teacher a baby zebra on the cheap."

Even that doesn't work. No spark.

"Yes," the little one says, massaging her throat base-to-chin, "fine."

"In that case," I sum up the evening's discussion. "I'll go see my mistress and spend the night with her. Listening?"

"You'll spend the night with her."

"So?"

"I think flowers would be best after all."

She gets up and moves to the bathroom to wash off the salmon, and I'm left alone with my racing brain. Seems I'll have to go on writing for the present. Yes, but what will we buy the teacher?

Translated by Miriam Arad



Tel Aviv's famed Kassis cafe was where the bohemians and artists headed after the curtain went down.

## Portrait of and by an artist

SRAYA SHAPIRO  
THERE AND THEN

DIRECTOR Shmuel Bunim, a fixture on the country's theatrical landscape for decades, has painted a portrait of his life and the world of bohemian Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv's famed Kassis cafe was the watering hole the artists headed for after the curtain went down.

Independence Day in the '50s was celebrated at Kassis with some especially serious drinking. Bunim writes in his autobiography, *Kun Bunim* ("Here is Bunim," Zagari series, Dvir Publishing House, 188 pp.).

"They began by sitting erect at the tables, toasting each other. Some intoned texts from the Song of Songs or Palmah ditties. Hazki Ish-Kassis surveyed the situation and hinted to waiters to uncork bottles. The singing rose an octave higher; nostalgia erupted. People who generally sat at separate tables abolished distinctions; [devotees of] conflicting trends in contemporary literature joined voices."

The crowd thickened and more people came in to celebrate with the "bohemians." Words were drowned out in the din.

"Suddenly a carpet of silence was laid at the feet of Hanna Rovina. She sang, factor and founding member of Habimah! Aharon Meskin hummed with her, and the

rest of those present assisted with 'ay-ay-ay'."

The formal celebration thus ended, the rest of the night was given over to food and drink provided by Hazki Ish-Kassis. Singing reached unsurpassable heights, with some customers chanting Russian love songs. People spilled out onto Dizengoff Street and danced.

Poet Natan Alterman then took his friends to the nearby home of director Moshe Halevy, founder of the Ohel Theater, where he continued drinking and wreaked havoc on Halevy's newly painted walls.

BUNIM WAS born in Saratov, a provincial Russian town on the Volga river, in 1919. Theater was in his blood: His mother, a dentist by profession, loved to take part in amateur theatricals. She married a young man who had been a prompter backstage.

Bunim was four years old when the family left Russia for Lithuania. In Kaunas, he was enchanted by his first visit to a circus, the start of a lifelong love of the big top.

His native tongue was Russian;

Bunim learned Hebrew in a Hebrew high school. He was a mediocre pupil, admitting that for him, studying was dull. But he enjoyed taking part in the school's theatrical performances.

Years later in Kibbutz Yakum, which he joined after graduating from Mikve Yisrael agricultural school, Bunim continued to indulge his passion for theater.

The fame of a satire he directed, *Yotsh* ("Mosquito"), reached Palmah commander Yigal Allon, who surprised Bunim at the beginning of the War of Independence by making him head of an army entertainment group, the Chizbatron. With writer Haim Hefer and Dahn Ben-Amotz, Naomi Polani and Gideon Singer as performers, Bunim's direction at the Chizbatron established the foundation for subsequent army entertainment groups.

Luck, if not sheer hutzpa, took Bunim to London to study the director's craft at the Old Vic drama school. Initially, his application to the Old Vic remained unanswered. Bunim mentioned it to a distinguished British visitor at Yakum one day. The man said nothing, but shortly afterwards the Old

Vic's letter of acceptance arrived. "My first assignment was to assist Michel Saint Dennis with rehearsing Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*," Bunim writes.

Fortunately for him, Saint Dennis fell ill the following day, and Bunim proceeded with the rehearsal according to the director's written instructions. He emerged credibly, thanking "my guardian angel!"

"And I discovered the English theater, came to love it and kept faithful to it forever."

BACK HOME he was offered a position with the Cameri Theater. His kibbutz refused to extend his leave of absence, so Bunim left. "But I still consider myself a kibbutznik," he writes.

Bunim staged about 50 plays, most of them for the Cameri. He won critical praise and financial success with Itzik Manger's biblical dramas in Hebrew and Yiddish. His biggest hit was with Alterman's Hebrew version of Samuel Gronemann's *The King and the Cobbler* in the '60s.

A producer hoped to repeat the success in America but failed. Bunim was sent for to try and save the show "within a week." He wanted a month. The American *Cobbler*, though lavishly produced, had only one performance on Broadway.

## Sick as a dog

HEADS'N' TAILS  
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

SEVERAL readers have written for advice about fairly common pet ailments. All the following ailments require professional attention, but I can offer some advice to help ease the situation temporarily.

One reader's year-old pup has had an eye inflammation for four months, and no ointments have helped. Bathing the eye and using boric acid eye drops have reduced the inflammation somewhat. But the dog is clearly uncomfortable, and often scratches its face.

A common cause of this condition is a blockage of the tear duct, which deprives the eye of a continuous bath of fluids. This condition requires the attention of a skilled veterinary surgeon who can probably open the duct. For a time it may be necessary to use eye drops several times a day, but once the duct is opened and healed, the problem should disappear.

Another reader's two-year-old Siamese cat has an eye infection that won't go away. This is not uncommon and should be treated by a veterinarian. Usually, antibiotic ointment or drops are prescribed. Sometimes steroids are added to the drops to prevent scarring of the cornea. Bathing the eyes with chamomile tea or a 5-percent boric acid solution offers some relief, but be careful not to transfer the infection from one eye to the other. Never use the same solution or the same cotton ball on both eyes, and wash the solution container in hot soapy water before making new solution.

A four-year-old imported Labrador retriever has a hacking cough, though it seems well and has a good appetite. The dog even coughs when it sleeps.

Ask a veterinarian to examine the dog thoroughly and to check for any obstruction in the throat, since some small object might be lodged in the trachea. Another possibility is that the dog may have worms. Ordinary ascarides, or roundworms, can cause a hacking cough. Since this dog is imported, it could have been exposed to lungworms, which are common in Europe and the US. But these worms usually produce a deep thoracic cough, and not a hacking cough as described.

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# New Cobb bio: 'Georgia Peach' was 'rotten'

ALLEN BARRA takes a look at two new biographies of Ty Cobb: "Cobb: A Biography," by Al Stump (Algonquin, \$24.95, 436 pp.) and "Ty Cobb: His Tumultuous Life and Times," by Richard Bak (Taylor, \$29.95, 194 pp.)

IN 1959, Al Stump, a West Coast sportswriter, got a surprise phone call that was to change his life. Would he, the caller wanted to know, be interested in working on the autobiography of Ty Cobb, the first player voted into baseball's Hall of Fame and holder of more records than anyone in baseball history? Stump was intrigued but wary; Cobb (who was, indeed, the caller) had a reputation for being difficult, and working on his life story wasn't likely to be a stroll through spring training.

On the other hand, Stump was handed a once-in-a-lifetime offer.

Ty Cobb was then and remains now the most dominant athlete in the history of American sports. No one since — not Michael Jordan, not Joe Montana, not even Babe Ruth — has approached in his game or his time the achievements of Cobb. In more than two decades in the outfield for the Detroit Tigers, "the Georgia Peach" led the American League in batting for nine consecutive years and 12 out of 13 seasons. His lifetime batting average is .367, higher than what more than 90 percent of baseball's Hall of Famers have ever reached for a single season. Stump decided to take the chance.

Al Stump had no idea how wild Ty Cobb's life had been, and if he had refused the assignment we wouldn't know, either. The first result of their collaboration was Cobb's *My Life in Baseball*, a self-serving, albeit well-written, apology for the half-century of mayhem Cobb had spread in his wake. Cobb died in 1961, at age 74, of a combination of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and alcoholism; it's possible that no lesser combination could have done him in.

After his death, Stump wrote "Ty Cobb's Wild, Ten-Day Fight to Live" for *True* magazine, which became one of the most anthologized sports pieces ever written.

Now, 33 years after Cobb's death, Stump gives us the whole story in *Cobb: A Biography*. Why the wait?

Perhaps it took the upcoming December film — directed by Ron Shelton and starring Tommy Lee Jones — to spur publishing interest. Perhaps it took Stump this long to entirely believe the story himself. Whatever the reason, *Cobb* is an instant classic, one of the five or six best sports biographies available. Alongside it, most sports bios seem timid and feckless — even Charles Alexander's *Ty Cobb*, praised by many as definitive, now seems bloodless in comparison.

Near the beginning of *Cobb*, the dying ex-ballplayer brings Stump with him to Royston, Georgia, on Christmas Eve "to see some of the old places before I die." In the hands of a lesser writer, this would have been the moment when the book started to turn sentimental, where we start to see the "good" side of Cobb.

Instead, as Cobb approaches the marble crypt that holds his father — "a scholar, state senator, editor and philosopher," in the son's semi-truthful words — we begin to divine the inner workings of Cobb's demented mind. "My father had his head blown off with a shotgun when I was 18 years old," he tells Stump, "by a member of my own family. I didn't get over that. I've never gotten over it." It probably didn't help young Ty's state of mind that the trigger was pulled by his mother and that there was suspicion, never substantiated, that it wasn't an accident. Stump doesn't hedge: "Was Ty Cobb psychotic throughout his baseball career? The answer is yes."

Cobb, raised in relatively genteel circumstances in early 20th-century Georgia, a reader of classics, a frequenter of museums and opera houses, a successful businessman who left millions when he died (including generous gifts for hospitals and schools), had a history of violence that would make Bugsy Siegel wince. On the record, a wounded Cobb once chased a mugger down,

using the man's own gun-sight to, in Cobb's words, "rip and slash and tear him for about 10 minutes until he had no face left ... left him there, not breathing, in his own rotten blood." (He played the next day and got two hits.) He once beat a black groundskeeper, and then his wife, because the man tried to shake his hand. He attacked umpires.

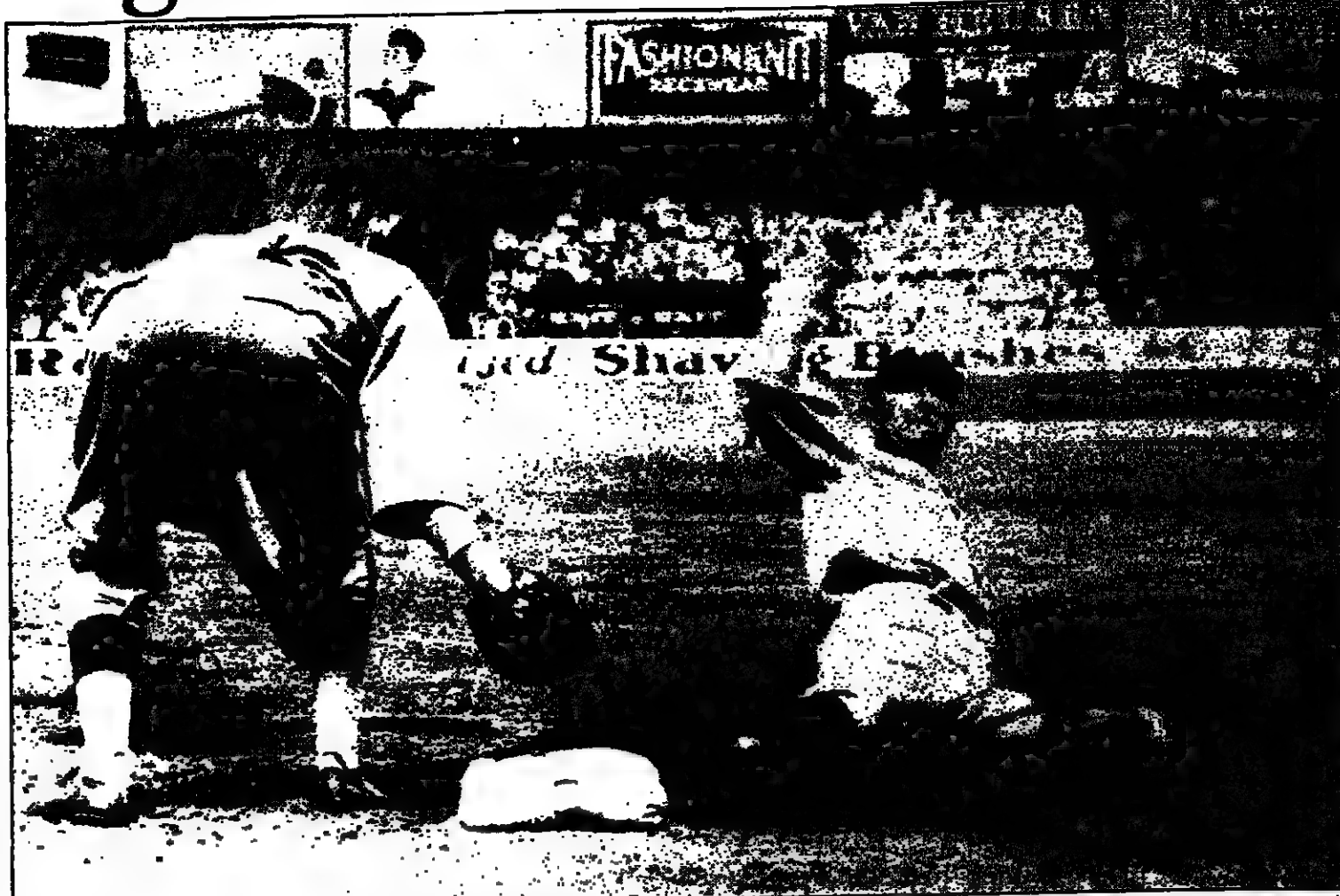
He once jumped into the stands to attack an amputee who had heckled him. In his defense, his teammates, who loathed him, supported Cobb on this issue. Heckling was pretty severe in an era when crowds of 2,000 fans were within spitting distance of the players.

When his son flunked out of Princeton, Cobb took a train to New Jersey and horsewhipped him. Then he bragged that "It did him some good ... in the end he made something of himself." (In the end, young Ty transferred to Yale where his grades improved until he was expelled for drunkenness.)

He filed his spikes to a fine point and sent innumerable opponents to the hospital with severe leg wounds. And, though the allegations were never proved, Stump makes a very good case that Cobb actually committed the only crime unpardonable from baseball's point of view — the only thing that could have kept him out of the Hall of Fame — betting on baseball.

Cobb's life, pieced together by Stump from letters, diaries, period magazines and hours of typed recollections which Cobb excised from his own book, was an unremitting series of brawls, quarrels and feuds. In the end, this monster of will and ego was alone and friendless. He spent his last few days at home tossing wadded-up paper balls into a basket. At his funeral, none of his three children, two ex-wives, or hundreds of former teammates showed up.

Ty Cobb won virtually all his battles, outlasted and defeated all his



Cobb, shown here sliding back to first to avoid a pickoff throw, was an aggressive runner who would spike anyone who got in his way.

enemies. Cobb is a monument to a man who achieved unqualified success in the furious and unrelenting pursuit of goals that proved, in the end, to be utterly trivial.

A picture is supposed to be worth a thousand words — not Al Stump's words, perhaps, but the photographs in Richard Bak's *Ty Cobb* are priceless, and the text by Bak (with an introduction by legendary Tiger announcer Ernie Harwell) is graceful and unpretentious. Bak seems to have found every photograph ever taken of Cobb, including a worth-the-price-of-admission full page shot of Cobb with a very sullen looking Babe Ruth. There's a shot of the wide-eyed, year-old Ty that makes him look like a model for the kids in "Children of the Damned," and eight color pages of Cobb tobacco cards, magazine covers and endorsement reproductions. Real fans will have no choice but to buy two copies and cut some of the pictures out for framing. (Newsday)

Excerpts from "Ty Cobb's Wild, Ten-Day Fight to Live" for *True* Magazine (1962), reprinted in *The Baseball Reader* (edited by Charles Einstein, McGraw-Hill, 1963)

● A blizzard rattled the windows of Cobb's luxurious hunting lodge on the crest of Lake Tahoe. "We'll drive in [to Reno]," Cobb announced, "and shoot some crabs, see a show and say hello to Joe DiMaggio, who's at the Riverside Hotel."

I looked at him and felt a chill. Cobb sitting there, haggard and unshaven in his pajamas and a fuzzy old green bathrobe at 1 o'clock in the morning, wasn't fooling.

"Let's not," I said. "You shouldn't be anywhere tonight but in bed."

"Don't argue with me," he barked. "There are fee-simple sons-of-bitches all over the country who tried it and wished they hadn't. If you and I are going to get along, don't increase my tension."

● [Cobb was] a scientific crap player who'd won and lost huge sums... When the stickman raked the dice away, Cobb loudly shouted "You touched the dice with your hand."

"No sir, said the stickman, 'I did not.'"

"Nobody touches my dice," said Cobb... It was a weird tableau. Cobb was in his crumpled station and expensive camel-hair coat, stained and charred with

cigarette burns.

"You fouled the dice," growled Cobb and then he swung. The blow missed, but cursing and almost falling, Cobb seized the wooden rake and smashed it over the table. I jumped in and caught him under the arms as he sagged. And then we were put into the street by two large uniformed guards. "Sorry, Mr. Cobb," they said unhappily, "but we can't have this."

● Major League owners and league officials hated to see him coming, for he thought their product was putrid and said so, incessantly. "Today they hit for ridiculous averages, can't field, can't bunt, can't steal, can't hit-and-run, can't place hit to the opposite field... These days, any tax-dodging mungwump with a bankroll can buy a franchise, field some semipro and get away with it. Where's our integrity, where's baseball?"

● "Have you got enough to finish the book," he asked.

"More than enough." "Give 'em the word then, I had to fight all my life to survive. They were all against me ... tried every dirty trick to cut me down but I beat the bastards and left them in the ditch. Make sure the book says that..."

## Mtolo seeks NY Marathon repeat

NEW YORK (AP) — When Willie Mtolo won the New York City Marathon in 1992, becoming the race's first South African champion, he remembers his friend, Fred Lebow, waving him frantically toward the finish line, urging him to victory.

Lebow, the marathon's long-time race director, died last month of brain cancer, and today, Mtolo will have another familiar face at the finish line — his mother, Bagcili. She'll be just as excited, but will express a different emotion.

"She will cry if she can see me hit the tape," Mtolo said.

Ms Mtolo never has seen her son run, not even in South Africa, where Mtolo has become a hero following his unexpected triumph in New York two years ago.

This is her first trip outside South Africa, outside the mud hut with the grass roof and dirt floor that has no running water, electricity or toilet where she lives and where her son was born in the remote mountain area called Kilimon.

Leaving home has been a culture shock for her.

Flying to the US was the first time she had been on an airplane. It also was the first time she had seen escalators, elevators and all the other western world amenities.

"This is a special occasion to bring her here," he said. "It is a big motivation for me."

So is the absence of Lebow.

Lebow brought Mtolo as a guest to the 1991 New York City Marathon, hoping he would be allowed to run in 1992. At the time, South Africans were barred from competing internationally because of the country's apartheid policy.

When the ban was lifted in early 1992, Mtolo hoped to compete in the Olympics, but his father died, he missed four weeks of training and was not selected for the South African team for the Barcelona Games.

Disappointed but not discouraged, he resumed training and was ready for the 1992 New York City Marathon. He ran his best race in six years, winning in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 29



TO THE VICTOR — Willie Mtolo smiles from under a laurel wreath after winning last year's New York Marathon. (AP)

seconds, beating 1993 champion Andres Espinosa of Mexico by nearly 1 1/2 minutes.

The victory drastically changed Mtolo's life.

He earned \$20,000 for winning, plus a new car and bonus money for breaking 2:10. He also was chosen South Africa's Athlete of the Year, ahead of another popular distance runner, Elana Meyer, the Olympic women's 10,000-meter silver medalist. This year, Mtolo was only one of two athletes chosen to attend the inauguration of South African president Nelson Mandela.

The financial bonanza helped Mtolo, now 30, purchase a three-bedroom house outside Durban for his wife and two children, plus some of his four brothers and four sisters.

He also bought the 300-acre farm where his father, Ndebazabantu, used to work as a laborer.

"He's invested his money wisely," manager Ray de Vries said.

He also has helped contribute to the development of South African youngsters in sports, especially through the Willie Mtolo Athletic Club, a group of more than 150 kids.

"He's developed the Zero to Hero Program, where he goes to the grass roots level and gets his hands dirty," de Vries said. "Very few champions do that."

"The victory was a good thing for South Africa," Mtolo said. "The people were looking for a hero."

"I couldn't believe it when I took the lead in Central Park. It was like a dream. I didn't expect to win the race. I was just hoping to be in the top five."

"I was happy to see Fred Lebow at the finish. We were friends. A lot of people are going to miss him. I will think about him when I run. I dedicate my race to Fred Lebow."

## Real Madrid, CSKA lead hoops final pool in Euro championships

BRIAN FREEMAN

REAL Madrid roared back from a halftime deficit to defeat visiting Scavolini Pesaro 88-75 in the European Club Championships final pool.

The victory gave the Spaniards a 2-0 record in Group A and a share of first place with CSKA Moscow.

Arvidas Sabonis paced Madrid's attack with 22 points, while Antonio Martin had 19 and Joe Arisukas 13.

For Scavolini, which led 44-41 at the half, Walter Magnifico scored 22.

The championships now takes a break for national team play until November 24, when Real Madrid plays Maccabi Tel Aviv at Yad Eliyahu.

CSKA Moscow 81, PAOK Salonika 80

The Russians also raced back from a halftime deficit to upset the Greeks in Salonika and remain unbeaten.

CSKA was paced by Evgeny Kissur, who scored 20 points. Charles Evans notched 13 and Patrick Eddie 12.

For PAOK, which defeated Maccabi Tel Aviv in the first contest and was up 39-37 at the half in the game against CSKA, Branislav Prelevic netted 21, Jerod Mustaf 20, and John Korfas 12.

Ljubljana 84, Benfica Lisboa 81

Jaka Dancic scored 24 points and Dean Hauptman 22 to lead the visiting Slovenians to victory, sending Benfica to its second straight defeat.

For Benfica, Carlos Lisboa netted 26, Jean Jacques 18, and James Harvilla 15.

### GROUP B

Olympiakos 101, Cibona Zagreb 69

Olympiakos obliterated its opponent for the second straight game, turning visiting Cibona into a shadow of the team that registered a convincing victory over Limoges in its first game.

Olympiakos' Eddie Johnson led all scorers with 34 points, while Alexander Volkov had 15 and Dragan Tarlac 14.

Cibona, which fell behind 55-27 at the half, was paced by Gerrod Abram with 24 points. Veljko Masic contributed 15 and Tavor Pejcinovic 11.

Barcelona 87, Bayer Leverkusen 77

The Spaniards also won their second straight game with an impressive win over the Germans.

Ferran Martinez scored 24 for Barcelona, while Leverkusen's attack was led by Henning Harnisch with 21.

Efes Pilsen 84, Joventut Badalona 70

The defending European champions went down to their second straight defeat, this one at home.

Badalona's miserable night was made worse by the news that captain and point guard Jordi Villacampa, injured during the game, twisted ligaments in his right knee and will be sidelined for at least four weeks.

Limoges 68, Bologna 60

Richard Dacoury scored 18 points and Michael Young 15 to overcome the visiting Italians and put the 1993 European champions back on track after losing their first game to Cibona Zagreb.

Pedrag Danticic netted 19 points for Bologna, which led 30-29 at halftime.



Former heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield 'praises the Lord' as he participates in a group prayer in Jerusalem Friday. Holyfield, a devout Christian, is here on a religious visit. (AP)

## Becker: Over-exposure hurts tennis

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Boris Becker took another swipe at tennis authorities when he said too much exposure was killing the sport.

After threatening to withdraw from next year's Australian Open in protest at recent rule changes, the former Wimbledon champion said tennis was in the doldrums because of the crowded calendar and massive over-exposure.

"Every other sport has a long break. Tennis is the only sport where they basically have a major championship every month," the former World No. 1 said after his win over Goran Ivanisevic in the Stockholm Open tournament last week.

"There is a tournament somewhere every week and people get bored by that much tennis — that is why they don't watch it any more. It is over-exposure."

Becker sparked controversy when he criticized a rule change for grand slam events which would limit the time available between points from 25 to 20 seconds.

He said the change, passed by the International Tennis Federation last month, could put players' health at risk, particularly at the Australian Open at Flinders Park where temperatures can soar to 40°C.

It would also remove much of the spontaneity and enjoyment from tennis, to the detriment of the game as a spectacle, he argued.

"There will be no time to talk to the ballboy or the crowd or make a joke. We will have to rush back to play the next point."

"There are almost too many rules right now — too many ways of keeping us quiet."

### TODAY

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 World rugby 17:00 National league soccer 17:50 Premier League: Man Utd v Aston Villa 19:45 Daily soccer roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 European league basketball 22:00 Argentinean league soccer 23:30 Goal and a half 00:00 Premier League: Man Utd v Aston Villa

#### EUROSPORT

6:00 Live Formula 1 from Japan 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 11:00 Live women's alpine skiing 12:00 Biathlon 13:00 Live men's alpine skiing 15:00 Biking highlights 15:30 Formula 1 from Japan 16:30 Figure skating 17:30 Live New York Marathon 20:00 Women's alpine skiing 21:00 Live supercross 22:00 Formula 1 from Japan 00:00 Brazilian league soccer 2:00 Snooker

#### PRIME SPORTS

6:30 Motor racing from Malaysia 7:30 Mountain bike show 8:00 Golf 10:00 International sports magazine 11:00 Power bowls 11:30 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Live Chinese league soccer 14:00 Formula 1 from Japan 16:30 Golf 18:00 International sports magazine 20:00 Live golf 22:30 Formula 1 from Japan 00:30 European soccer 1:00 Live Aerobics

#### MONDAY NOVEMBER 7

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live European Cup basketball 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:30 NFL 00:00 (to be announced)

#### EUROSPORT

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 10:00 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Golf 16:00 Japanese league baseball 18:00 Chinese league soccer 21:00 International sports magazine 22:00 Japanese league soccer 1:00 Snooker 1:30 Aerobics

#### PRIME SPORTS

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#### WEDNESDAY NOV 9

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live European Cup basketball 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:30 NFL 00:00 (to be announced)

#### EUROSPORT

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### THURSDAY NOV 10

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live European Cup basketball 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:30 NFL 00:00 (to be announced)

#### EUROSPORT

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 10:00 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Golf 16:00 Japanese league baseball 18:00 Chinese league soccer 21:00 International sports magazine 22:00 Japanese league soccer 1:00 Snooker 1:30 Aerobics

#### PRIME SPORTS

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 10:00 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Golf 16:00 Japanese league baseball 18:00 Chinese league soccer 21:00 International sports magazine 22:00 Japanese league soccer 1:00 Snooker 1:30 Aerobics

#### FRIDAY NOV 11

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live European Cup basketball 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:30 NFL 00:00 (to be announced)

#### EUROSPORT

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#### SATURDAY NOV 12

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live European Cup basketball 22:00 Brazilian league soccer 23:30 NFL 00:00 (to be announced)

#### EUROSPORT

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 10:00 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Golf 16:00 Japanese league baseball 18:00 Chinese league soccer 21:00 International sports magazine 22:00 Japanese league soccer 1:00 Snooker 1:30 Aerobics

### PRIME SPORTS

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#### PRIME SPORTS

6:00 PGA golf 8:00 Formula 1 from Japan 10:00 Chinese league soccer 12:00 Aerobics 12:30 Talking baseball 13:00 Golf 16:00 Japanese league baseball 18:00 Chinese league soccer 21:00 International sports magazine 22:00 Japanese league soccer 1:00 Snooker 1:30 Aerobics

#### SUNDAY NOV 13

#### CHANNEL 5

7:00 Bodies in motion 18:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 English league soccer roundup 19:30 Table tennis 18:30 Daily roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live















# High Court hears petition of Tze'elim-2 families

EVELYN GORDON

THE sentence in the Tze'elim-2 trial might send a dangerous message by implying that it is okay for elite units to cut corners on safety, Supreme Court Justice Elisha Mazza warned on Friday.

The High Court of Justice was hearing a petition by four of the bereaved families from the 1992 training accident, which left five dead and six wounded. Two officers were found guilty of negligence in the case, and were given a three-month suspended sentence and demoted one rank. The families want the convicted men stripped of officer ranking entirely, and are asking the court to order the army to appeal the leniency of the sentence.

Justices Theodor Orr, Yitzhak Zamir and Mazza are hearing the case as

if a show-cause order had already been issued. They will issue their decision at a later date.

Attorney Eliad Shraga, representing the families, argued that the punishment had been given under unacceptable pressure. The entire Sayeret Matkal unit was brought to the military courtroom fresh from the failed rescue of Cpl. Nahshon Wachsmann, with blood still on their uniforms, to exercise emotional blackmail, he said.

Senior officers were threatening to put the army prosecutor on trial himself, he charged, and some of the character witnesses were either involved in the affair themselves or did not even really know the accused. Meanwhile, the families were not allowed to bring two character witnesses

of their own — a former unit commander and a captain in the unit, both of whom had harsh things to say about one of the accused.

Furthermore, Shraga argued, the punishment fails to serve the goal of deterring future incidences of negligence. The military judges were wrong in believing that such deterrence isn't necessary in Sayeret Matkal, he said. In 1992 alone, the unit had three other deaths from training accidents besides the five in Tze'elim-2.

"[The punishment] should send a message to succeeding generations that will perhaps reduce the number of bereaved families in the country," he said.

The sentence also discriminates against other convicted officers, who

have usually been given prison terms even for only one death, and is disproportionate to the harshness of the verdict, Shraga said.

"There isn't a single case of such a big accident, with so many wounded, being given such a light punishment," he said.

Finally, he noted, the army judges said their leniency was partly due to fear that a harsh punishment might make other officers in the elite unit afraid to take necessary risks.

"This is the first time that an Israeli court has taken the unit into consideration," Shraga said. "And there is no doubt this will be a guiding verdict from now on."

As he ended his plea, the court appeared unsympathetic. Why, demanded Orr, is any of this a reason for the High Court to get involved? There has never been a case of the court ordering the state to appeal a sentence, he noted.

However, when state representative Nili Arad, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, tried to follow up this apparent advantage, Mazza attacked the state's position.

Arad argued that the families had been given the chance to raise all their arguments in court, and had not done so. Instead, they had pleaded that the officers not be given prison terms. They should not be given a second chance, she said.

Furthermore, she said, while the punishment was lenient, it was not exaggeratedly so. The investigation and trial dragged on for two years, during which time the officers' careers were on hold — and even a one-rank demotion is heavy punishment for such outstanding officers, she said.

Finally, she said, it would be unjust for the court to interfere, because if it ordered an appeal, the appellate court would be forced to conclude that the High Court thought the punishment exaggeratedly light, and this would give the accused no chance to win the appeal.

Mazza challenged this, however. Even if the sentence is acceptable, he said, shouldn't the prosecution appeal

if the reasons are unacceptable? One of the main reasons for the lenient sentence was fear of impairing the unit's ability to function, he noted.

"Doesn't this verdict send... a very, very difficult message, that in order to succeed... in an exercise, it's okay to take risks: a little at the expense of safety rules?" he asked, noting that an exercise, after all, was not the same as an actual operation.

At the end, in an unusual move, the judges permitted two of the bereaved parents, Shaul Shilo and Yochi Shatan, to make their own emotional appeal to the court.

If their petition is not accepted, warned Shilo, the court "will be setting a norm that IDF officers who are negligent in their duties don't have to pay for it."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sadat's daughter arrives today

Camelia Sadat, a peace activist and the daughter of late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, is arriving here this morning for a two-week visit. Sadat, on her first visit to Israel, is joining a group of 25 American supporters of Givat Haviva, the institute supporting Arab-Israeli reconciliation.

Sadat teaches Middle East history at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts.

### Arafat not invited to Auschwitz — Peres

Poland has sidestepped Jewish wrath by dropping plans to invite Nobel Peace Prize-winner and PLO leader Yasser Arafat to attend a 50th anniversary ceremony marking the liberation of Auschwitz, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday.

But Arafat's co-winners of the Nobel award, Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, could still attend as representatives of Israel, a foreign ministry official said.

Polish officials, Peres told Army Radio, "decided that only those who received the Nobel Prize up until this year will be invited to Auschwitz in order to get around inviting Arafat."

"At least one of Israel's top leaders, [President Ezer] Weizman, Rabin or Peres will be invited as Israel's representative," said Foreign Ministry official Yaki Dayan. (Reuters)

### Egyptian science minister due here

Egyptian science minister Venis Gooda is due to arrive here today for a three-day visit. It will be the minister's first time in Israel.

The visit is aimed at studying scientific activities here and possible ways in which the two countries and the region can cooperate.

During her visit, she is due to tour the Weizmann Institute, Hebrew University's agriculture faculty in Rehovot, Ness Ziona science park and the Technion.

### Red Cross president arrives

The president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Leagues will arrive here today at the invitation of Magen David Adom. MDA says the visit of Dr. Mario Vilrauel has special significance, because it will be the first visit to Israel by an IRC president.

MDA is only an observer to the IRC and not a full member because the international body does not recognize its Red Star of David symbol. The IRC official, who is Venezuelan, will arrive from Jordan today and tour MDA facilities, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Kiryat Shmona, Gaza and Jericho.

### Abie Nathan hospitalized with malaria

Former "peace ship" owner Abie Nathan was hospitalized Thursday night in Tel Aviv with malaria, doctors said. He was taken to Ichilov Hospital by ambulance after complaining of high fever and chills. (JTM)

### Electric company worker electrocuted

Israel Electric Corporation worker Doron Niss, 23, of Tel Aviv, was electrocuted and suffered moderate to serious burns on Friday morning when he was repairing high-tension wires in Jaffa.

He was admitted to the plastic surgery department of Wolfson Hospital in Holon, with burns on his face and other parts of his body. (JTM)

### Two killed during family brawl

Two Nabulus residents were killed over the weekend during a fight which broke out between two family clans. Hasham Abu Hassan, 32, was shot 12 times by two youths from the Sa'adi family, according to Arab sources. A bystander, Hassan Johiri, was also shot in the incident and died later of his wounds. (JTM)

## SLA man killed in Hizbullah ambush

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Hizbullah fighters ambushed an SLA patrol in south Lebanon on Friday, killing one soldier, as violence flared for the 10th straight day, security sources reported.

On Friday afternoon, an IDF force detonated a road-side bomb and a joint IDF-SLA patrol came under mortar fire. The IDF returned fire, killing one Hizbullah attacker. An IDF patrol found the body in the Beit Yahoun area.

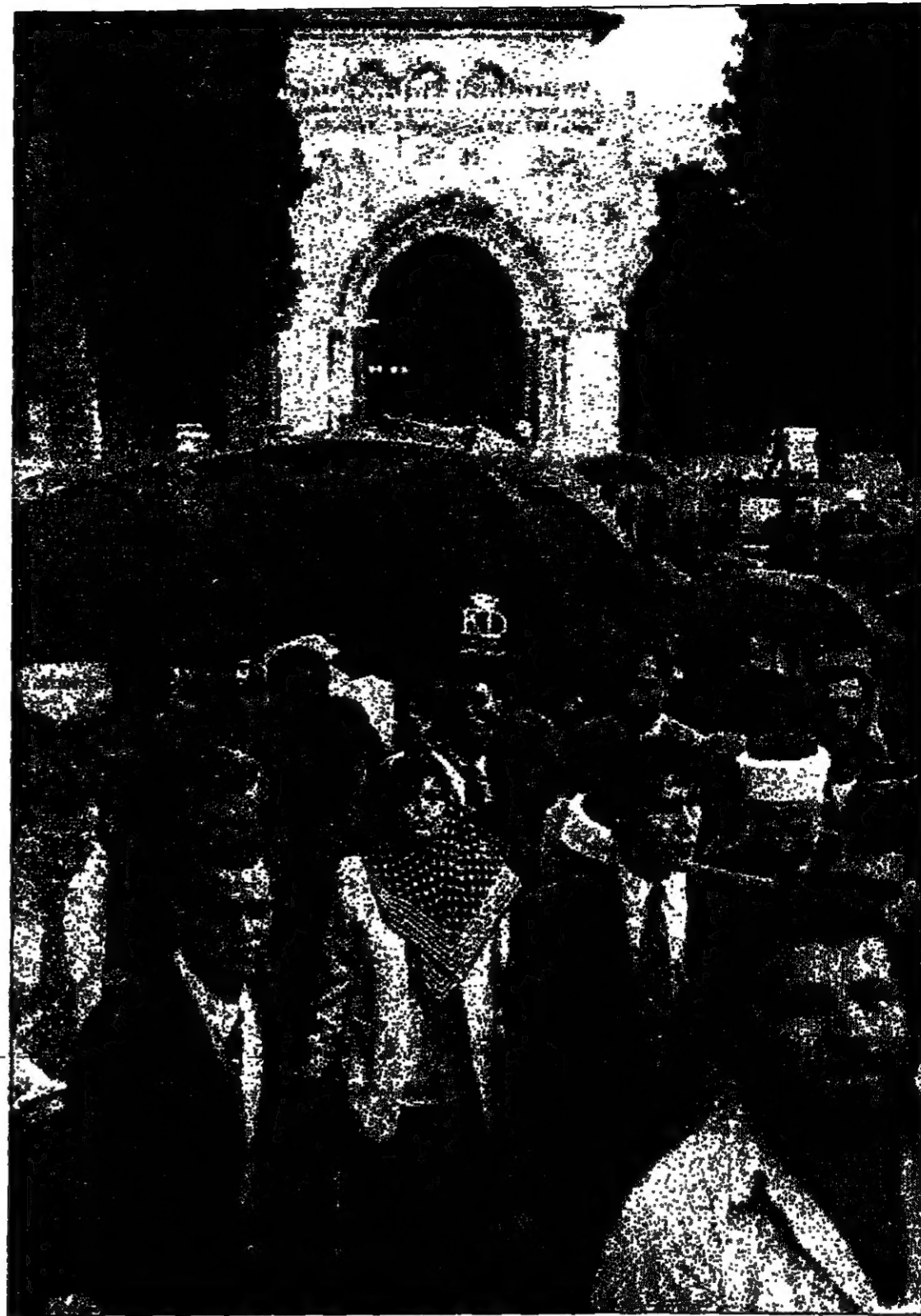
The bomb ambush in the security zone and a Thursday night assault on an SLA post touched off heavy retaliatory shelling of Moslem villages. Heavy damage to buildings and plantations was reported, but no casualties.

Irish troops of the UN peacekeeping force in the region came under mortar fire during the bombardment by Israeli and SLA gunners inside the zone. But no casualties were reported among the 677-man Irish battalion attached to the 5,800-strong, nine-nation UN Interim Force in Lebanon, whose operational area overlaps the Israeli zone.

UN spokesman Timor Goksel said five mortar rounds hit Irish positions near the village of Hariss, seriously damaging medical and communications centers, sleeping quarters and three vehicles.

Friday's remote-controlled bomb ambush took place at 8 a.m. near the village of Kfar Houna, in the northern sector of the zone.

In Thursday night's raid, security sources reported that two fighters were wounded in a hit-and-run raid on an SLA outpost near Beit Yahoun in the zone's central sector. Seven Shi'ite villages were targeted in the retaliatory shelling which raged from midnight to mid-morning Friday.



Turkish Prime Minister Tancil Ciller visits the Temple Mount yesterday. (Reuters)

## Ciller: Gaza should be world priority

TURKISH Prime Minister Tancil Ciller yesterday pledged to help the impoverished Gaza Strip and said it "proving the lot of the Palestinians here should be a priority for the whole world."

Ciller spoke after a meeting in Gaza with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat whom she addressed as "president of Palestine."

Arafat said Ciller promised Turkish aid in building housing projects, sewage systems, a Gaza seaport and airport, and paving roads.

"Your visit today was a very important visit," Arafat told Ciller. "You have kept your promise and came to visit us here in the first Palestinian lands liberated after the [Israeli] occupation."

Neither leader gave details of the help pledged by Turkey. Ciller only said that she would dispatch building workers "who will be starting construction projects immediately."

"The situation [in Gaza] is a matter of priority, and it should be a priority for the whole world," she added.

Yesterday, Ciller toured the mosques on the Temple Mount and met with Moslem religious leaders. She said noon prayers at the Al-Aksa mosque and met with mothers of Palestinian security detainees who demanded that Ciller pressure Israel to release the prisoners. Ciller also talked with Jerusalem's PLO-appointed mufti, Ikrama Sabri.

"Her visit means to us that the Moslems are one family," Sabri said. "She respects Islamic principles. When she came to the mosque, she covered her head."

Sabri said he outlined to Ciller the Palestinian demands to run the Moslem holy sites in eastern Jerusalem. (AP)

## Shlomi strike ends after government promises help

THE strike of municipal workers in the Galilee town of Shlomi ended on Friday after three weeks, during which time the security lighting in the town had stopped working and some 2,000 pupils were kept home from school.

The strike had been called to protest the lack of development and government neglect of the town, and had the support of residents and local council members. The strike was called off during an emergency session of the local council, which was

attended by Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman.

Local Council Head Yisrael Avacrat said Goldman had promised that within two weeks an interministerial committee would be set up to find solutions to the many problems plaguing Shlomi. The government would also transfer NIS 2 million to the town to help cover its debts, which total some NIS 6 million.

Avacrat said that while town leaders had demanded to be included in the government's project for local development, Goldman promised that Shlomi would be given the status of "priority settlement," which would give them even better benefits.

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